

DATE : 22 FEB 2019

DAY : Friday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Greening program lures private sector

By Kuhlin Ceslie Gacula

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued new guidelines aimed at increasing private sector participation in the government's enhanced national greening program (ENGP).

The ENGP is the government's flagship reforestation initiative that seeks to cover the remaining 7.1 million hectares of open, degraded and denuded forests in the country until year 2028.

This, as Secretary Roy A. Cimatu recently signed DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2019-03 which revises the implementing rules and regulations to encourage more private sector players to participate in the program.

The DAO specifies three modes by which the private sector may participate in the ENGP's implementation in the remaining three years of the Duterte administration.

Under the new guidelines, the private sector may enter into a private-public partnership scheme through establishments of new plantations, maintenance and protection of existing plantations and protection of existing forests outside ENGP areas.

For untenured areas, private entities may develop the area through a memorandum of agreement entered with the DENR.

Those in the private sector may enter into an agreement with beneficiaries

of the community-based forestry management program, depending on the purpose of establishment in accordance with memorandum circular 1998-08.

For untenured areas, private entities may develop the area through a memorandum of agreement entered with the DENR.

The duration of contracts with DENR partner-organizations was lengthened to five years from the original three years.

This is to ensure high survival rates of trees planted in the previous years and increase the benefits of ENGP partners.

The ENGP is the extension of the national greening program which was created by virtue of EO 26 and implemented from 2011 to 2016.

During its six-year implementation, the program posted an accomplishment of 1.3 billion seedlings planted in 1.7 million hectares.



22 FEB 2019

DATE

MULTI-AGENCY TASK FORCE CREATED TO SPEED UP BAY REHAB

By **Julie M. Aurelio**
@JMAurelioINQ

President Duterte has created a task force to coordinate and speed up the rehabilitation and restoration of Manila Bay's coastal and marine ecosystem.

The Manila Bay Task Force, created through Administrative Order 16 signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea on Feb. 19, will implement engineering and technological interventions to reduce the coliform level in the bay and improve water quality.

It can also impose fines and penalties, as well as administrative sanctions, on those who fail to comply with environmental laws.

The secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will be

the chair of the task force, with the secretaries of the local government and tourism departments as vice-chairpersons.

Task force members

The other members of the task force are the secretaries of the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Health and Department of Agriculture; as well as the chiefs of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Also part of the task force are the executive director of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission; administrators of the Local Water Utilities Administration and Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System; the director of the Philippine Nation-

al Police's Maritime Group; the commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard; the general manager of the Philippine Ports Authority; and representatives of Manila Water and Maynilad.

The task force has a wide scope of powers and functions, including enforcing relevant provisions of Presidential Decree 856 or the Sanitation Code, Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, and RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

It is also mandated to ensure that agencies and local government units (LGUs) implement appropriate measures against violators of these laws.

In particular, mayors in Metro Manila and the governors of Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan and Cavite provinces

should ensure the implementation of relevant environmental regulations.

DENR's responsibilities

The DENR will enforce RA 9275 with regards to the containment, removal and clean-up operations aside from supervising and managing all aspects of water quality management.

It will also monitor compliance with environmental laws on top of issuing notices of closure, cease and desist orders, and other sanctions to violators, including erring government officials.

The Manila Bay Task Force is expected to submit a quarterly report to the Office of the President on the actions taken by agencies and LGUs, and recommendations on amending existing laws. INQ



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

RAHBER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 FEB 2015

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Duterte creates Manila Bay Task Force

By ARGYLL B. GEDUCOS
and BETHEENA UNITE

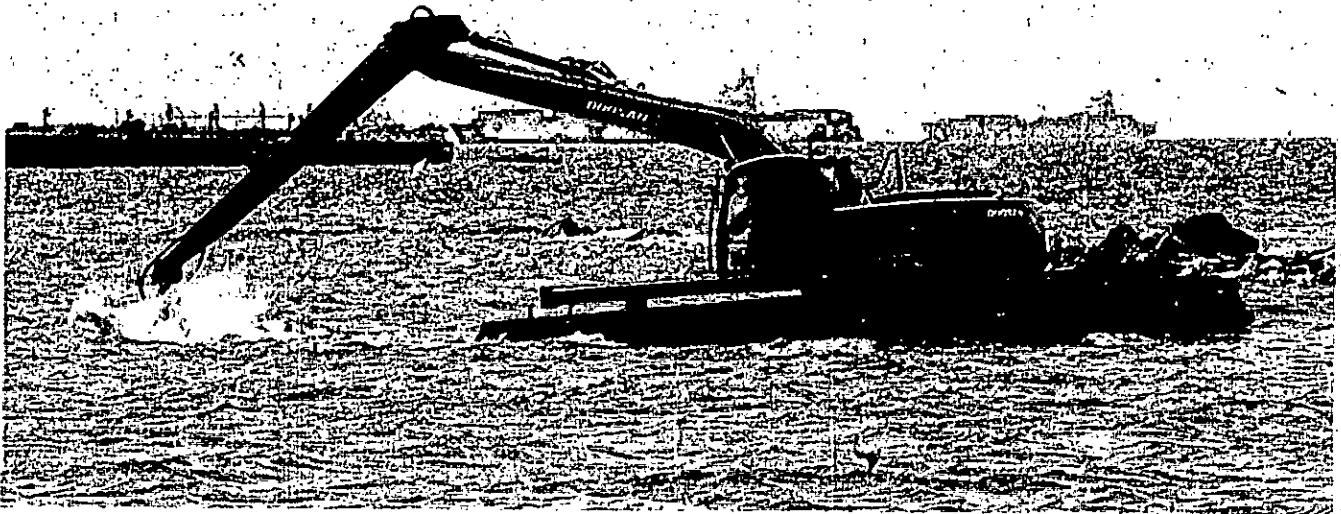
President Duterte has ordered the creation of the Manila Bay Task Force that will expedite the rehabilitation, restoration, and conservation of the

coastal and marine ecosystem of the Manila Bay.

In Administrative Order (AO) No. 16 signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea on February 19, the secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was

designated as chair of the Task Force. The secretaries of the Interior (DILG) and Tourism (DOT) departments will serve as vice chairpersons.

The DENR is tasked to strictly enforce the Philippine Clean Water Act on the conduct of contain- **▶6**



DIGGING IN - An amphibious excavator collects trash from the seabed of Manila Bay along Roxas Blvd. Thursday, as part of stepped up efforts by the government to clean up its long-polluted waters. (All Vicoy)

1/2



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



22 FEB 2019

DATE

2/2

Duterte creates Manila... ◀1

ment, removal, and clean operations, and the exercise of supervision and control on all aspects of water quality management.

The agency will also monitor compliance with critical environmental laws, rules and regulations, and issue notices of closure, cease and desist orders, and other appropriate sanctions to violators, including the filing of cases against erring government officials.

Other members of the Task Force are the secretaries of the departments of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Health (DOH), and Agriculture (DA); and the heads of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Under AO 16, the Philippine Coast Guard, together with the Philippine National Police Maritime Group will "conduct regular patrolling of coastlines and water bodies in the Manila Bay Region."

The two agencies were also ordered to apprehend violators of Presidential Decree 979 or the Marine Pollution Decree, Republic Act No. 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code, and other existing laws designed to prevent maritime pollution in the bay.

They are also tasked to document any changes, whether an increase or decrease, of informal settlements in the area. They will also support filing of cases against local government units for failing to control new informal settlers in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

Further, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) shall "prevent the discharge and dumping of solid and liquid wastes and other ship-generated wastes into the Manila Bay waters from vessels docked at ports." The PPA shall also arrest violators of such regulation.

The DPWH, on the other hand, is tasked to demolish all structures, constructions, and other encroachments built in violation of the Urban and Development Act of 1992 along Meycauayan-Marilao-Obando Rivers

in Bulacan, Talisay River in Bataan, Imus River in Cavite, Laguna de Bay, and other rivers connecting waterways, and esteros that discharge wastewater into the Manila Bay.

According to the order, this will be performed by the DPWH in coordination with the DILG, PNP Maritime Group, and other concerned agencies.

The DPWH is also directed to implement programs for flood control and drainage services, including but not limited to, dredging of water bodies in areas outside of Metro Manila which are discharging into the bay.

The other members of the Task Force are the executive director of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC); administrators of the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) and Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS); director of the Philippine National Police (PNP)-Maritime Group; commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG); general manager of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA); and representatives of the Manila Water and Maynilad.

The Task Force is required to submit a quarterly report to the Office of the President which should include the actions taken by the LGUs, and recommendations on the amendment of existing laws and issuances in order to respond to existing conditions.

The funding for the Task Force will be sourced from existing appropriations of member-agencies of the Task Force and other sources identified by the Budget Department.

The Task Force is also mandated to collaborate with the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), and the National Housing Authority (NHA) to prepare and start the massive relocation of informal settlers in the area to suitable relocation sites.

They must also ensure strategies for economic and social integration of the informal settlers in the area and the long term solutions to address ongoing

migration into the Manila Bay area.

Meanwhile, the departments of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Trade and Industry (DTI) are directed to provide immediate assistance to those affected by the clean-up, including the provision of social safety nets, emergency employment, training, livelihood assistance, and job facilitation services, among others.

President Duterte has ordered the Task Force to require all public and private facilities to immediately connect existing sewage lines to available sewerage systems or sewerage treatment plants (STP), or to construct individual STPs. The Task Force can also impose fines, penalties, and administrative sanctions to compel compliance.

The Task Force shall also undertake remedial measures using engineering and technological interventions to improve water quality in Manila Bay, particularly in reducing the level of coliform there.

The President also tasked them to prepare a comprehensive plan for expediting the local sanitation program of LGUs within the Manila Bay Region by 2026.

The Task Force is also instructed to ensure that concerned agencies and local government units undertake appropriate measures relative to violation of environmental laws.

In collaboration with the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), the Task Force will embark on a massive information, education, and communication drive to garner public support for the Manila Bay clean-up.

All heads of other government offices, including state universities and colleges, are also enjoined to extend full support to the Task Force.

All mayors in the National Capital Region, and governors of the provinces of Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, and Cavite shall ensure the implementation of critical environmental laws and other relevant laws.



Rody forms Manila Bay task force

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte has formed a task force that would implement and fast-track the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

The creation of the task force is contained in Administrative Order No. 16 signed by the President on Feb. 19.

"The convergence of national government agencies and LGUs (local government units) in the Manila Bay Region, and their active participation, are necessary to facilitate the robust and integrated implementation of all rehabilitation and restoration efforts at the

Manila Bay," the order read.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu was named chairman of the Manila Bay Task Force while Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año and Tourism Secretary Bernadette Puyat were designated vice chairpersons.

Members of the task force were the heads of public works, health, and agriculture departments, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, Metro Manila Development Authority, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, Local Water Utilities Administration, Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System, Philippine Na-

tional Police maritime group, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Ports Authority, and representatives of water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad.

The panel was tasked to enforce provisions of the sanitation code and require all establishments and households to immediately connect existing sewage lines to available sewerage systems or treatment plans or construct individual treatment plants.

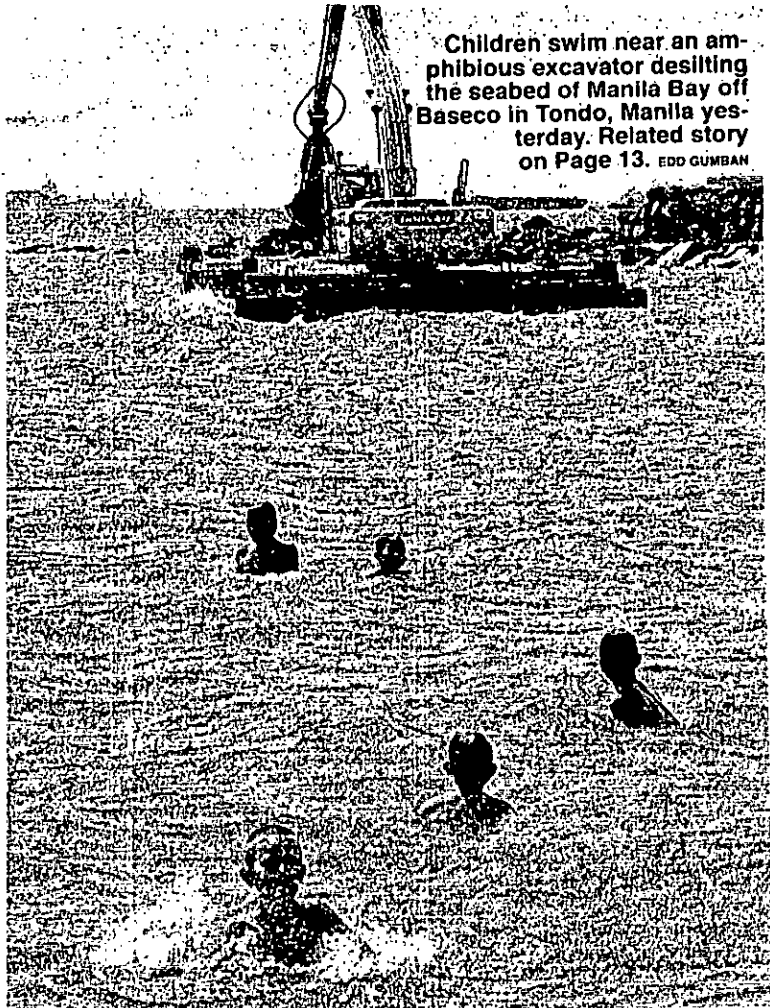
It was also directed to undertake remedial measures to improve the water quality of Manila Bay and collaborate with the National Anti-Poverty Commission, Presi-

dential Commission for the Urban Poor, National Housing Authority and affected local governments in preparing a comprehensive relocation plan for informal settlers within 60 days.

The plan will include identification of suitable relocation sites, strategies for economic and social integration of informal settlers and long-term solutions to address migration into the Manila Bay Region.

The Manila Bay Task Force was instructed to expedite a local sanitation program of local governments within the Manila Bay Region by 2026 and fast-track compliance with

Children swim near an amphibious excavator desilting the seabed of Manila Bay off Baseco in Tondo, Manila yesterday. Related story on Page 13. EDD GUMBAN



the Supreme Court order that directed agencies and private entities to clean-up, rehabilitate, preserve, restore and maintain Manila Bay waters to a level fit for swimming and other recreation.

The task force was directed to ensure that concerned agencies and local governments act on violations of environmental laws, improve resource management of the Manila Bay and collaborate with agencies on massive information and education drive to garner support for the rehabilitation efforts.

The social welfare and labor departments were instructed to provide immediate social

welfare assistance to families affected by the clean-up.

"All mayors of the cities and municipality in the NCR (National Capital Region), especially those along the Manila Bay, as well as governors in the provinces of Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan and Cavite, including the mayors of municipalities and cities within their political subdivisions, shall ensure the implementation of critical environmental laws," Duterte said.

The task force is expected to submit a quarterly report on the implementation of the order.

- With Rhodina Villanueva



Natural habitat
Herons are among the primary beneficiaries once Manila Bay is fully rehabilitated. ROY PELOVELLO



Manila Bay super body formed

The DENR earlier had said the estimated cost of the rehabilitation and clean-up of the famed body of water is P47 billion

By Elmer N. Manuel and Kristina Maralit

To ensure the complete restoration and conservation of Manila Bay, President Rodrigo Duterte has created a task force that will be in charge of the rehabilitation of the heavily polluted body of water.

A document released by the Palace

on Thursday showed Duterte signed on 19 February Administrative Order (AO) No. 16.

The order designates Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu as the chairperson of the task force while Interior Secretary Eduardo Año and Tourism chief Bernadette Romulo-Puyat were

designated as vice-chairpersons.

According to the AO, the super body shall have the power to enforce the country's sanitation code "to ensure the complete rehabilitation, restoration and conservation of Manila Bay."

The DENR earlier had said the estimated cost of the rehabilitation and clean-up of the famed body of water is P47 billion.

It added it shall also require all structures and facilities around the bay, including households, "to immediately connect existing sewage lines to available

sewerage treatment plants (STPs) or to construct individual STPs."

The task force is also mandated to improve water quality in the bay by reducing the coliform level in all major river systems and tributaries within the Manila Bay region and it is also directed to craft a comprehensive plan for "massive relocation" of informal settler families around the bay.

It shall also ensure that concerned local government units undertake appropriate measures against erring persons or

establishments and improve resource management of Manila Bay and create models of inter-LGU cooperation in ecosystem management, "with special focus on the Laguna Lake and Pasig River."

"The convergence of the national government agencies and local government units in the Manila Bay region and the active participation of private and public stakeholders are necessary to facilitate the robust and integrated implementation of all rehabilitation and restoration efforts at Manila Bay," the order stated.



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The Manila Times

A4
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

MATTER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 FEB 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DIGITAL COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Duterte forms body to expedite Bay rehab

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the creation of an inter-agency task force to speed up the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay.

Administrative Order 16, signed by Duterte on February 19, takes effect immediately.

"The convergence of the national government agencies and local government units (LGUs) in the Manila Bay region and the active participation of private and public stakeholders are necessary to facilitate the robust and integrated implementation of all rehabilitation and restoration efforts at the Manila Bay," Duterte said.

The President assigned Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu as chairman of the inter-agency task force. Interior Secretary Eduardo Año and Tourism chief Bernadette Romulo Puyat will serve as the vice chairmen.

Other members of the task force include officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Health, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Philippine Coast Guard, Manila Water Company, and Maynilad Water Services Inc., among others.

The task force will implement relevant provisions of Presidential Decree 856 or the "Code of Sanitation of the Philippines" as amended, Republic Act (RA) 9275 and RA 9003 to ensure the complete rehabilitation, restoration and conservation of the Manila Bay.

It will also require all government facilities and other establishments, including households

to immediately connect existing sewage lines to available sewage systems or sewage treatment plants (STPs) or to construct individual STPs, whenever applicable, as well as to issue appropriate orders, impose fines, penalties, and other administrative sanctions to compel compliance thereof."

In collaboration with the Anti-Poverty Commission, Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, National Housing Authority and affected local government units, the task force will prepare and implement a comprehensive plan for the massive relocation of informal settlers along Manila Bay.

It will also facilitate a massive information, education and communication drive to garner public support on the clean-up in collaboration with the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Presidential Communications Operations Office and affected LGUs.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development Department of Labor and Employment, and Department of Trade and Industry, meanwhile, were tasked to provide social welfare and livelihood assistance to families affected by the cleanup.

The task force's funding shall come from existing appropriations of its member-agencies and other sources identified by the Department of Budget and Management.



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22 FEB 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Task force created to speed up Manila Bay rehab

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the creation of the Manila Bay Task Force to speed up the rehabilitation and conservation efforts of the iconic waterway, a document from Malacañang revealed Thursday.

Under Administrative Order No. 16, which he signed on Feb. 19, the President stressed the need to expedite the rehabilitation and restoration of the coastal and marine ecosystem of the polluted bay.

"The convergence of national agencies and local government units in the Manila Bay Region, and the active participation of private and public stakeholders are necessary to facilitate the robust and integrated implementation of all rehabilitation and restoration efforts at the Manila Bay," Duterte said.

According to the President, the Task Force will be headed by the Environment secretary as its chairperson. The Interior and Tourism secretaries will be its vice chairpersons.

Duterte also sought the support of 13 government agencies to ensure the full implementation of his directive, which include the departments of Public Works and Highways, Agriculture, Health, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, the Metro Manila Development Authority, Pasig River

Rehabilitation Commission, Local Water Utilities Administration, Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System, Philippine National Police Maritime Group, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Ports Authority, Manila Water, and Maynilad Water Services.

Upon his order, the Task Force can "undertake remedial measures using engineering and technological interventions to improve the water quality of the Manila Bay, such as sustained and targeted reduction in the coliform level in all major river systems and tributaries within the Manila Bay Region."

Duterte then gave specific directives to all the mentioned agencies, reminding them of their respective mandates as prescribed in the Writ of Continuing Mandamus issued by the Supreme Court.

"All heads of government departments, bureaus, and offices, including government-owned -or -controlled corporations and state universities and colleges, are hereby enjoined to extend full support to the Task Force in the performance of its mandates under this order," the President said.

The departments of Social Welfare and Development, Labor and Employment, and Trade and Industry are likewise ordered to

provide "immediate social welfare assistance to individuals and families affected by the cleanup and rehabilitation effort," which may include provisions for social safety nets, emergency employment assistance, training, livelihood assistance, and job facilitation services.

Duterte also called on all the mayors of the cities and municipalities in the National Capital Region and the governors of Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, and Cavite to ensure the implementation of critical environmental laws.

They are mandated to monitor the water quality in the region, implement measures to prevent and control water pollution, allocate necessary lands for sewage treatment facilities, and impose administrative sanctions on those who would violate environmental laws.

"The Task Force shall submit a quarterly report on the implementation of this order to the Office of the President... Such report shall include the actions taken by the LGUs and recommendations on the amendment of existing laws," he said.

For the funding of the Task Force, Duterte said the budget would be sourced from the existing appropriations of its member-agencies. **Nat Mariano**



Task force formed to fast-track Manila Bay cleanup

By Arjay L. Balinbin *Reporter*

PRESIDENT Rodrigo R. Duterte has created a task force for the speedy rehabilitation and restoration of Manila Bay.

Malacañang on Thursday released to reporters copies of Administrative Order No. 16, which Mr. Duterte signed on Feb. 19, citing the necessity of the participation of national government agencies and local government units (LGUs) "to facilitate the

robust and integrated implementation of all rehabilitation and restoration efforts at the Manila Bay."

The Manila Bay Task Force, according to the document, will be composed of the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as chairperson; Secretaries of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Department of Tourism (DoT) as vice-chairpersons; and Secretaries of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH),

the Department of Health (DoH), and the Department of Agriculture (DA), among others, as members.

The President's order states that the task force members "may designate an alternate, who must be next in rank to the principal member and must be fully authorized to decide for and on their behalf, to represent their respective offices in the task force."

Among the powers and functions of the task force are to enforce relevant laws and regulations "to ensure the complete

rehabilitation, restoration, and conservation of the Manila Bay" and require all government facilities, subdivisions, condominiums, commercial centers, hotels, sports and recreational facilities, hospitals, market places, public buildings, and industrial complexes and other similar establishments, including households, "to immediately connect existing sewage lines to available sewerage treatment plants (STPs), or to construct individual STPs."

The task force can also impose fines, penalties, and other

administrative sanctions to compel compliance "whenever applicable."

Moreover, the task force, in collaboration with the National Anti-Poverty Commission, Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, National Housing Authority, and affected LGUs, will prepare and commence "within 60 days from the issuance of this order" the implementation of a comprehensive plan for the massive relocation of informal settlers, especially in the areas along the Manila Bay Region.

The said agencies and the task force will identify suitable relocation sites, determine strategies for the economic and social integration of informal settlers in the area, and formulate long-term solutions to address ongoing migration into the Manila Bay Region.

The task force will also prepare a comprehensive plan for expediting the local sanitation program of LGUs within the Manila Bay Region by 2026 and fast-track compliance with the Writ of Continuing Mandamus issued by the Supreme Court.



22 FEB 2019

FILE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Duterte forms Manila Bay Task Force

President Duterte has ordered the creation of the Manila Bay Task Force to ensure the expedited and complete rehabilitation, restoration, and conservation of the coastal and marine ecosystem of Manila Bay.

In Administrative Order No. 16 signed by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea on Feb. 19, the secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is designated as chair of the Task Force. The secretaries of the Interior (DILG)

and Tourism (DoT) departments, meanwhile, will serve as vice-chairpersons.

The DENR is tasked to strictly enforce the Philippine Clean Water Act on the conduct of containment, removal, and clean operations, and the exercise of supervision and control on all aspects of water quality management.

The agency will also monitor compliance with critical environmental laws, rules and regulations, and issue notices of closure, cease

and desist orders, and other appropriate sanctions to violators, including the filing of cases against erring government officials.

Other members of the Task Force are the secretaries of the departments of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Health (DoH), and Agriculture (DA).

The funding for the Task Force will be sourced from existing appropriations of member-agencies of the Task Force and other sources identified by the Budget Department. **(Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)**



MANILA BAY TASK FORCE BINUO

LUMIKHA na ang Malakanyang ng Manila Bay Task Force na tututok sa mabilis na rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay.

Nakasaad sa administrative order 16 na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte noong Feb. 19, inatasan ang iba't ibang sangay ng pamahalaan na magtulungan para linisin ang Manila Bay.

Ilalag din ng task force ang komprehensibong plano para sa relokasyon sa mga informal settler na naninirahan sa kahabaan ng Manila Bay.

Inatasan naman ang Department of Social Welfare and Development at ang Department of Trade and Industry na bigyan ng livelihood assistance ang mga maapektuhang pamilya sa clean-up.

Habang binibigyan din ng kapangyarihan ng Malakanyang ang Task Force na magpataw ng multa sa government facilities at iba pang establisimiyento maging ang mga ordinaryong bahay-bahay na pagmuhahin kapag walang maayos na sewerage system.

Kukunin ang pondo ng task force sa kasalukuyang pondo ng mga kasaping departamento.

Sa kabilang dako, talayong chairman ng task force ang kalihim ng DENR habang magsisilbing vice chairpersons ang mga kalihim ng Department of Interior and Local Government at Department of Tourism.

Habang ang ilan naman sa magiging miyembro ay ang DPWH, DOH, Dept of Agriculture, HUDCC, MMDA, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, Coast Guard, PNP Maritime Group, Phil Port Authority at mga kinatawan mula sa MAYNILAD at Manila Water.

Magiging katuwang ng task force ang mga mayor na saklaw ng kahabaan ng Manila Bay sa National Capital Region pati na ang mga gobernador ng Bataan, Pampanga, Cavite at Bulacan.

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22 FEB 2019

DATE

Manila Bay Task Force, tututok sa rehab

Ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo ang paglikha ng Manila Bay Task Force na tutukan ang mabilis na rehabilitasyon, restorasyon at pangangalaga sa coastal at marine ecosystem ng Manila Bay.

Sa Administrative Order No. 16 na nilagdaan ni Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea nitong Pebrero 19, inatasan ang kalihim ng Department of Environment and

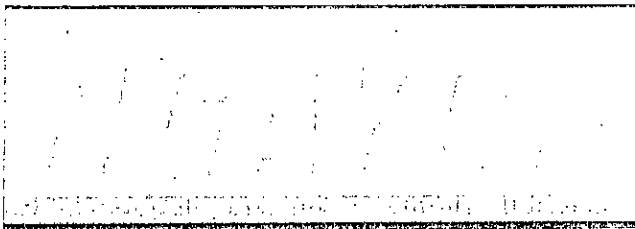
Natural Resources (DENR) na pamunuan ang Task Force. Ang mga kalihim naman ng Interior (DILG) at Tourism (DoT) departments ang magsisilbing vice-chairpersons.

Ang iba pang miyembro ng Task Force ay ang mga kalihim ng departments of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Health (DoH), at Agriculture (DA).

Miyembro rin ng task force ang chairmen ng Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) at Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Katuwang ng Task Force ang mga mayor sa mga lugar na saklaw ng Manila Bay sa National Capital Region (NCR) at mga gobernador ng Bataan, Pampanga, Cavite at Bulacan

Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos
at **Beth Camia**



TF Manila Bay binuo

Bumuo ng Manila Bay Task Force si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte upang manguna sa clean-up ng Manila Bay.

Nilagdaan ng Pangulo ang Administrative Order no. 16 para sa pagbuo ng Manila Bay Task Force na siyang mangunguna sa clean-up at rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. Layunin din nito na ibalik ang dating ganda ng Manila Bay.

Bubuuin ang Manila Bay TF ng kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources

bilang chairman at vice-chairpersons naman ang kalihim ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) at Department of Tourism habang miyembro ng TF ang mga kalihim ng DPWH, DOH, DA, HUDCC, LWUA, MWSS, PNP chief, PCG commander, Maynilad Water at Manila Water.

Inatasan din ni Pangulong Duterte ang mga Local Government Units (LGU's) lalo ang nasa Manila Bay area gayundin ang mga gobernadora

ng lalawigan ng Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan at Cavite na maging aktibo rin sa partisipasyon gayundin ang public at private stakeholders sa pagpapatupad ng Manila Bay clean-up, rehabilitation at restoration.

Sinimulan nang DENR kasama ang iba pang ahensiya ng gobyerno ang clean-up at rehab plan sa Manila Bay at tinukoy na rin ang mga pribadong kumpanya na nagtatapon ng kanilang dumi sa Manila Bay. *(Rudy Andal)*



Task Force Manila Bay binuo ng Malacañang

PARA magtuloy-tuloy ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, naglabas ng administrative order ang Malacañang na nagtatatag ng Task Force Manila Bay.

Batay sa Administrative Order No. 16 na pirmado ni Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, inatasan ng Malacañang ang iba't ibang ahensiya ng pamahalaan na magtulung-tulong para mapabilis ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Tatayong chairperson ang kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) habang magsisilbing vice chairpersons ang DILG at Tourism secretary.

Batay sa AO No. 16, magkakaroon ng papel ang bawat ahensiyang kasama sa Task Force habang inatasan din ang mga alkaldeng nakakaskop sa Manila Bay, pati na ang mga gobernador ng Bataan, Pampanga, Cavite at Bulacan na tiyaking naipatutupad ang environmental laws sa kani-kanilang nasasakupan. **(Aileen Taliping)**



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Founded 1858

The Manila Times

AS
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

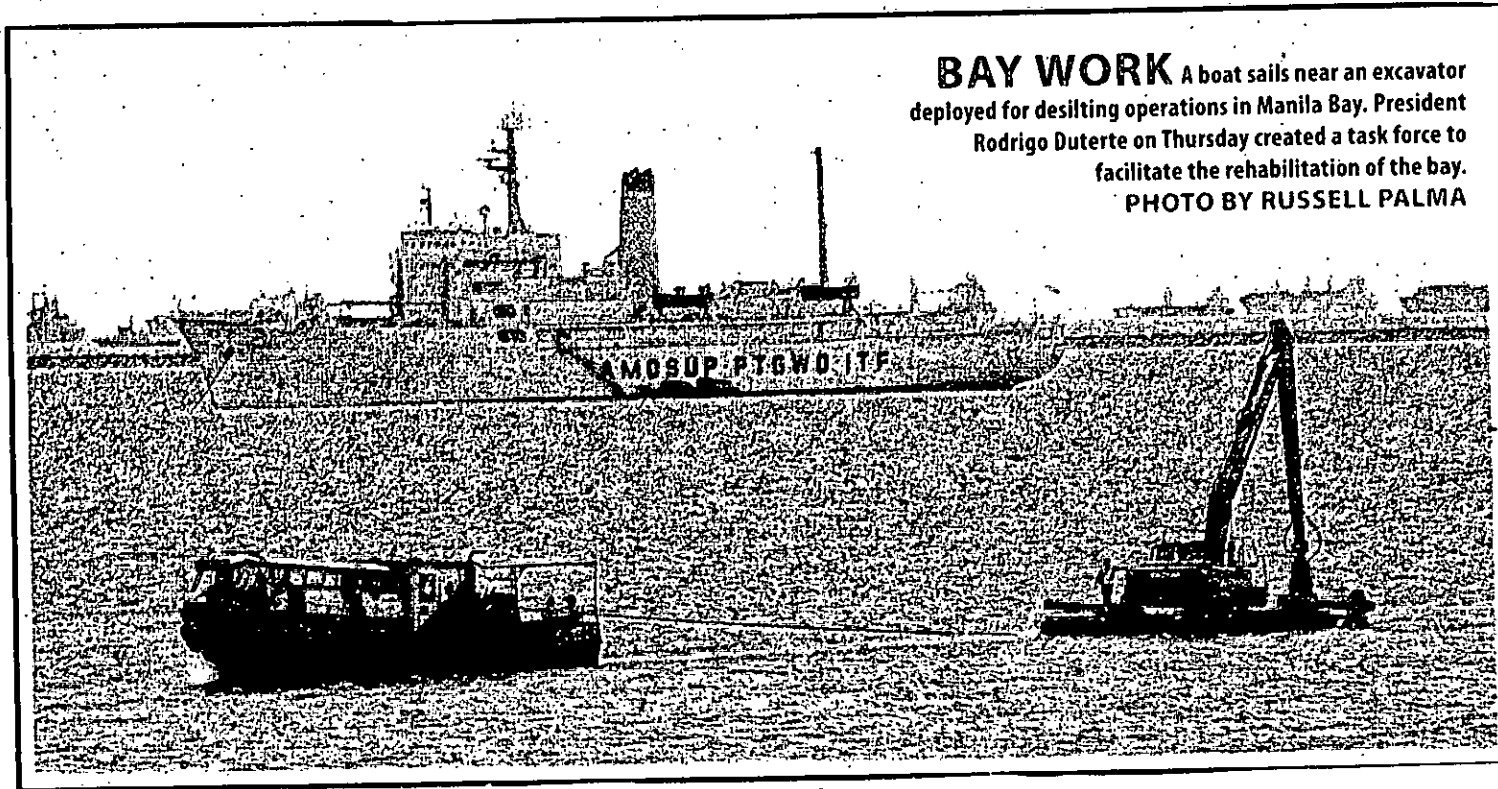
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STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 FEB 2019

DATE



BAY WORK A boat sails near an excavator deployed for desilting operations in Manila Bay. President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday created a task force to facilitate the rehabilitation of the bay.
PHOTO BY RUSSELL PALMA



Balita

2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

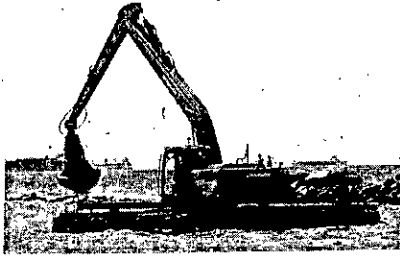
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22 FEB 2019

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANGSA



AHON-BASURA Gamit ang amphibious excavator, hinukay at hinakot ng mga tauhan ng Department of Public Works and Highways ang mga basura sa ilalim ng Manila Bay sa Roxas Boulevard sa Maynila, kahapon.
ALI VICOY



5 Manila Bay hotels get notices of violations

By MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO

✉ @akosistellaBM

Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR

AT least 10 percent of inspected hotels and other accommodations establishments around the Manila Bay area were found to have violated environmental regulations.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat revealed this during a press conference on Monday, after she unveiled the reworked Philippines brand campaign anchored on the slogan, "It's More Fun in the Philippines." (See, "DOT unveils 'refreshed' PHL brand campaign," in the BUSINESSMIRROR, February 19, 2019.)

She disclosed that government teams have already inspected 50 hotels around the Manila Bay area. Of the 50, she said, "five have been given three months to comply." She declined to reveal the names of the five hotels, only identifying "some" as part of large hotel chains, while "others aren't. We would rather not announce their names because we gave them three months. If they don't comply, then we will close them." The notices of violations issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had to do with water pollution.

As per the website of the Department of Tourism, in the National Capital Region alone, there are 91 accredited hotels, 12 apartment hotels and 14 Mabuhay accommodations (inns and pension houses) as of 2018. Of the 91 accredited hotels

50

The number of hotels inspected by government teams around the Manila Bay area. Of the 50, "five have been given three months to comply," said Tourism Secretary Romulo Puyat

46 are located in Manila, Pasay and Parañaque. For apartment hotels, only two are located in Pasay and Manila, while nine out of 14 Mabuhay accommodations are in Manila and Pasay.

As this developed, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) vowed to go after erring local government officials who don't enforce Republic Act 9353, the Tourism Act 2009, in their areas.

The government agency issued Memorandum Circular 2019-17, signed by Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año, reiterating the implementing rules and regulations of TA 2009, requiring primary tourism enterprises (PTEs) such as hotels, resorts, inns and other accommodation establishments to secure accreditation from the DOT prior to being issued a license or permit to operate by local government units (LGUs).

"Kakasuhan namin sila! [We will file cases against them!]," said Año

SEE "MANILA BAY," A8

Manila Bay...

CONTINUED FROM A1

in an interview with the BUSINESSMIRROR, when asked how much teeth his memo had over LGU officials.

"If local officials fail to do their mandate under the law, they can always be administratively liable," explained DILG Undersecretary Epimaco V. Densing III in a text message.

He added, the memo is "just reminding PTEs to have DOT accreditation and LGUs should cancel business permits if PTEs don't have DOT accreditation."

Arenas joins Villar, green groups opposing Manila Bay reclamation

She used to be a staunch ally of Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada when he was still vice president, but now Deputy Speaker Rose Marie Arenas has joined forces with Senator Cynthia Villar and activist groups in opposing not only certain reclamation projects, but also in calling for a "total ban" within the entire Manila Bay.

Arenas, in filing a House resolution, said she was horrified to find out that 38 projects have been submitted to reclaim a whopping 26,234 hectares from the Manila Bay, covering an area six times the size of Manila.

Arenas with Duterte

Although the Pangasinan representative did not cite the Manila city government, Arenas, nevertheless, identified by name one of Estrada's pet projects, the 148-hectare Solar City reclamation proposal by broadcast and film entrepreneur Wilson Tieng.

In addition to the Solar City proposal, Estrada also is pushing for four other reclamation

**VICTOR
C. AGUSTIN**

proposals, the 318-hectare Manila Waterfront City by the Gatchalians, the 419-hectare Horizon Manila by J Bros Construction Corp., the 407-hectare New Manila Bay International Community by the Hong Kong-based UAA Kinming Group, and the 50-hectare expansion of the Manila Harbour Centre.



The Arenas resolution was submitted in time for last week's hearing by the House Committee on Metro Manila Development.

In that hearing, Philippine Reclamation Authority chief executive Janilo Rubiato testified that the reclamation projects were initiated by private proponents in partnership with the respective city councils in Manila, Pasay, and Paranaque who needed the additional land for their growing population.

The reclamation was also needed to rein in escalating property values which have spiked up to as high as P250,000 per square meter even in the urban planning-nightmare of Pasay City, as against the reclamation cost of only about P15,000 to P20,000 sqm.

The usual compensation formula, according to the PRA, is that 49 percent of the reclaimed land will go to the developer, while 51 percent goes to the government, including space allocations for roads.

Committee chairman Quezon City Rep. Winston Castelo ended the hearing without a definite consensus, which might as well be, since President Duterte had already stolen the thunder from Congress by issuing an order transferring the power to approve reclamation projects to the Office of the President.

Under Executive Order 74, the control and supervision of the Philippine Reclamation Authority has been transferred to the Office of the President from the National Economic and Development Authority, with the PRA mandated to seek the opinions of the NEDA, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Department of Finance on any proposed reclamation project.

"All proposals for reclamation projects shall be evaluated by the PRA based on their cumulative impacts rather than on a specific project basis" and that the reclamation projects undergo competitive public bidding before final award, the Duterte order said.



22 FEB 2019

TITLE :

PAGE /

DATE

COMMONSENSE MARICHU A. VILLANUEVA

Holistic plan to save Manila Bay

For a continuing series about the ongoing rehabilitation of the Manila Bay, we have invited to our weekly *Kapihan sa Manila Bay* several key government and private sector officials who can best update us on the current activities to revive our country's famed perfect sunset site.



Manila City Administrator Atty. Erickson "Jojo" Alcovendaz, Jennifer Rufo of Maynilad Water Services Inc., and Jeric Sevilla of Manila Water Co. Inc. gave us very detailed discussions on their respective roles in the national efforts to rehabilitate the waters of the Manila Bay.

Alcovendaz disclosed that Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada ordered the closure last Monday of the Makchang restaurant and the Circle Hotel in Malate for violations of local ordinances that include the lack of wastewater treatment or sewage equipment, sanitation permit, and health certificates of their workers.

The closure came after the City Hall inspection team gave them seven days to correct their non-compliance but found the two establishments have not done anything to conform with the environmental requirements of their business permits.

According to Alcovendaz, five more business establishments located in Malate area have been given notices of similar violations and given the same number of days within which to undertake corrective measures. As of yesterday, he said, the five commercial establishments asked for an extension.

Alcovendaz, however, clarified the notices of violations on erring establishments were being implemented based on the recommendation of the city government's department of health and sanitation. This was to correct the misimpression that it was the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) that issued the order to Mayor Estrada. The Manila City administrator showed copies of the letters of LLDA general manager Jaime Medina to Mayor Estrada informing the latter about cease and desist orders (CDO) issued to specific commercial establishments under the jurisdiction of the City of Manila.

Speaking for Mayor Estrada, Alcovendaz sounded the call for all hands on deck to save the Manila Bay.

"In this regard, we are furnishing herewith copies of cease and desist orders (CDO) issued to various entities and establishments within the administrative jurisdiction of the City of Manila for the information and reference of your good office," the LLDA chief stated in his letter to Mayor Estrada. "We wish to thank you for your continuing support in our joint efforts to rehabilitate and improve the environmental quality of Manila Bay, Laguna de Bay and the tributaries draining into these bodies of water," the LLDA letter further stated.

The LLDA is one of the attached agencies of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) among the national government agencies and local government units along with Maynilad and Manila Water that were covered by the 2008 mandamus issued by the Supreme Court (SC) to save and rehabilitate Manila Bay. We earlier featured DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu as head of the Task Force Manila Bay rehabilitation to our *Kapihan sa Manila Bay* last Feb. 6.

Speaking for Mayor Estrada, Alcovendaz sounded the call for all hands on deck to save Manila Bay. Two of the 31 esteros within the city directly drains at Manila Bay, he said. Of the 11,000 informal settlers living along these esteros, he cited, 5,000 families were already relocated by the Manila City government to resettlement sites in Cavite and Bulacan.

The Manila Bay waters are considered the most polluted in the country due to domestic sewage, toxic industrial effluents from factories and shipping operations, and leachate from garbage dumps, among others. The Manila Bay area has registered levels to as high as 330 million most probable number (mpn) per 100 milliliters.

The standard coliform level for coastal waters for swimming and other similar recreational activities is only at 100 mpn/100 ml as safe level.

On Feb. 15, 2011, the SC issued a continuing mandamus to all concerned to comply with the order after taking to task these government agencies for lack of implementation of the High Court order. It was only the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte who found the political will to implement this following the successful campaign to save Boracay island resort from similar environmental degradation.

In fact, President Duterte signed on Feb. 19 Administrative Order No. 16 designating the DENR Secretary as chairman of the Manila Bay rehab task force, with the Secretaries of the Department of Interior and Local Government and of the Department of Tourism as vice-chairpersons.

According to Cimatu, only 15 percent of the water-served population in the National Capital Region are connected to a sewerage system with either the Maynilad Water or the Manila Water. But more than 200,000 informal settler families – the politically correct term for squatters – residing in esteros and riverbanks discharge human wastes at the waterways that eventually end up at the Manila Bay.

For the part of Maynilad and Manila Water, the two water concessionaires of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) explained that commercial establishments have the obligation to install their own sewage treatment plants (STP) that will process their wastewater before being discharged eventually to sewer lines.

The two MWSS concessionaires are currently scouting for available land space to speed up the construction of additional STP in these unserved areas.

Our own venue of *Kapihan sa Manila Bay* at Cafe Adriatico in Remedios Circle in Malate was even among establishments issued by the Manila City Hall with notice of violations and is currently paying penalties of P10,000 a day for lack of septic/sewage treatment. Its owners, led by the family-owned restaurants of the late Larry J. Cruz (LJC), are now seeking a City Hall permit for excavation to connect Café Adriatico to the sewer lines of Maynilad.

Maynilad and Manila Water echoed the call aired by Manila City administrator Alcovendaz for such a "holistic" program to save the Manila Bay. As to how to do such "holistic" program of action will be the topic of my next column on Monday.

★



It will take much more than 7 years

THE two concessionaires of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) disclosed this week their programs and plans for treating wastewater in Metro Manila as part of the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

When the national government launched the Manila Bay clean-up project, following the reopening of Boracay to tourists six months after it was closed down in May last year, former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza pointed out that Manila Bay, which he said had become a "giant septic tank," was a problem hundred times worse than Boracay's "cesspool." He said the two MWSS water concessionaires were supposed to operate plants to treat all of Metro Manila's wastewater which now flows into the bay.

Last Monday, Manila Water, which operates in the eastern half of Metro Manila, disclosed it has a P115-billion plan for the next 19 years. At the start of its concession in 1997, Manila Water said, it had to work with just one sewage treatment plant. It invested P33 billion in the last 21 years to increase the number of plants to 38 by the end of 2018.

There is still a long way to go, Manila Water said, as the 38 sewage treatment plants have a capacity of 310 million liters of wastewater a day. Full coverage will take time and so P115 billion will be invested in more plants until 2037. To be carried out in three phases by 2037, it said, it expects 99 percent coverage with a total of 53 treatment plants.

The other Metro Manila water concessionaire,

Manila Water Services (Maynilad), covers the western part of Metro Manila along with some towns and cities in Cavite. It said it has already invested P23.3 billion to improve its wastewater infrastructure and is investing P11.4 billion this year.

When Secretary Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) completed the rehabilitation of Boracay after six months, he said the rehabilitation of Manila Bay may take seven years. Manila Bay is a hundred times bigger than Boracay's waters and the pollution is not just from Metro Manila; it comes from all the towns and cities of the provinces around Manila Bay - Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, and Cavite.

However, it looks like it will take more than his original estimate of seven years. The garbage that various groups periodically collect on the bay's shores along Roxas Blvd. is only a small part of the problem. The bigger part is the untreated sewage flowing out of hundreds of thousands of homes into streams in the area, into the Pasig River and several canals, and finally into Manila Bay.

In its announcement of its plans, Manila Water said it expects 99 percent coverage of its area by 2037. Maynilad, the other concessionaire, said it expects 100 percent coverage also by 2037. That is 18 years from now.

But we must welcome the fact that we are starting this year. Sometime in the years ahead, additional projects may be undertaken to speed up the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

Don S. Jimas
MANILA BULLETIN
FEBRUARY 22, 2019



22 FEB 2018

DATE

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

EDITORIAL

It will take much more than 7 years

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EDITORIAL

Aabutin ito ng mahigit pitong taon

INIHAYAG ngayong linggo ng dalawang concessionaries ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewage System (MWSS) ang kanilang mga programa at plano para malinis ang wastewater sa Metro Manila bilang bahagi ng isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Nang ilunsad ng pamahalaan ang Manila Bay clean-up project, matapos ang muling pagbubukas ng Boracay para sa mga turista matapos na isara ng anim na buwan noong Mayo ng nakaraang taon, binigyang-diin ni dating Manila mayor Lito Atienza na ang Manila Bay, na naging isang "giant septic tank", ay problemang daang beses na mas malala kumpara sa "cesspool" ng Boracay. Aniya, ang dalawang water concessionaries ng MWSS ang dapat na nagpapakatako ng mga planta, upang malinis ang lahat ng wastewater sa Metro Manila na dumadaloy patungo sa look.

Nitong nakaraang Lunes, ipinaalam ng Manila Water, na nag-o-operate sa silangang bahagi ng Metro Manila, ang P115 bilyong plano para sa susunod na 19 na taon. Sa simula ng concession nito noong 1997, sinabi ng Manila Water na isang sewage treatment plant lamang ang kanilang magagamit. Nakapaglaan na ito ng P33 bilyon sa nakalipas na 21 taon upang mapataas ang bilang ng planta sa 38 bago matapos ang 2018.

Marami ang kinakailangang gawin, sinabi ng Manila Water, lalo't ang 38 sewage treatment plant ay may kapasidad lamang na 310 milyon litro kada araw. Mangangailangan ng mahabang panahon ang "full coverage" kaya P115 billion ang kinakailangang ilaan para sa mas maraming planta hanggang 2037, na isasagawa sa tatlong bahagi. Sa taong 2037, anila, inaasahang 99 na porsiyento ang masasakop sa kabuuang 53 treatment plant.

Ang isa pang Metro Manila water concessionaries, ang Manila Water Services (Maynilad), ang sumasakop naman sa kanlurang bahagi ng Metro Manila kasama ng ilang mga bayan at lungsod sa Cavite. Sinasabing naglaan na ito ng P23.3 bilyon upang mapaganda ang mga wastewater infrastructure at maglalaan ng nasa P11.4 bilyon ngayong taon.

Nang matapos ni Secretary Roy Cimatu, ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), ang rehabilitasyon ng Boracay sa loob ng anim na buwan, sinabi niyang aabutin ng pitong taon ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. Ang Manila Bay ay daang beses na mas malaki kaysa katubigan ng Boracay at ang polusyon dito ay hindi lamang sa Metro Manila; nanggagaling ito sa lahat ng mga bayan at siyudad ng mga probinsiya na nasa paligid ng Manila Bay – Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan at Cavite.

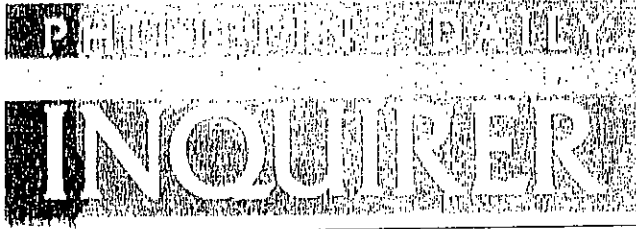
Gayunman, tila mas mahabang panahon ang magugugol kumpara sa orihinal na pagtataya na pitong taon. Ang basura na manaka-nakang nakokolekta ng iba't ibang grupo sa baybayin ng Manila Bay sa kahabaan ng Roxas Blvd. ay maliit lamang na bahagi ng problema. Ang malaking parte nito ay ang duming nagmumula sa daang libong bahay patungo sa mga sapa sa lugar, na dumadaloy patungong Ilog Pasig at sa ilang mga kanal, na napupunta sa Manila Bay.

Sa pag-anunsiyo nito ng kanilang plano, sinabi ng Manila Water na inaasahan nitong mapupunan ang 99% ng kabuuan nitong sakop sa taong 2037. Habang 100% naman ang inaasahan ng Maynilad pagdating ng 2037. Ito ay 18 taon simula ngayon.

Ngunit dapat nating ikalugod ang katotohanang nagsisimula na tayo ngayong taon. Maaring sa mga susunod na taon, ilang mga proyekto ang dapat na maipatupad upang mapabilis ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



A1
PAGE

TIPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

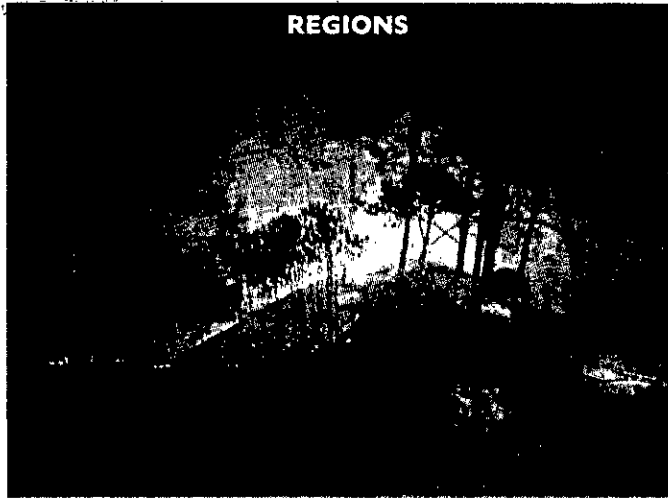
EDITORIAL

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1/2

22 FEB 2019
DATE

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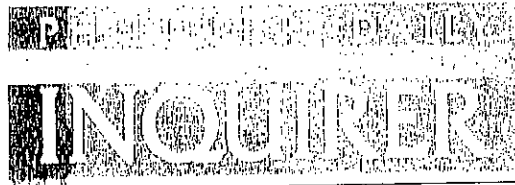


4-hour Benguet forest fire leaves 5 dead

BAGUIO CITY—A four-hour fire in a 60-hectare forest in Benguet province turned deadly on Wednesday for four foresters and a resident who tried to help put out the blaze. Strong winds fanned the flames and trapped the five men. Responding firefighters from Tuba and Itogon towns, some 30 kilometers from the site, failed to save the victims. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

—STORY BY KIMBERLIE QUITASOL

A12



AIR
 COVER
 LOWER
 FIRST STORY
 SECOND STORY
 FEATURES
 CARTOON

2/2

22 FEB 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

5 dead in Benguet forest fire

Fatalities trapped after trying to help extinguish blaze in 60-hectare area

BAGUIO CITY—Five men were killed on Wednesday while helping put out a fire that razed a 60-hectare forest area in Benguet province.

The victims, four of them foresters of Philex Mining Corp., went to help put out the blaze but were trapped when the fire quickly spread due to strong winds, according to lawyer Eduardo Aratas, the mining firm's legal officer.

The four foresters were identified as Dante Molina, Noel Dagiym, Marlon Guinguin and Dexter Labasan, while the fifth fatality was Leon Mocate, a local resident. Aratas said Philex would

provide financial assistance to the victims' families as well as help transport their bodies to their hometowns.

Other damage

The fire, which started around 1 p.m. on Wednesday, also destroyed a storage facility owned by the mining firm.

The affected area straddles the boundary of Itogon and Tuba towns in Benguet. The blaze was first seen at the eastern part of Sitio Sal-angan at Barangay Ampucao in Itogon, and immediately spread to nearby areas.

Firemen from the two towns reached the area, about

30 kilometers from the Itogon fire station, around 2:30 p.m. The fire was declared under control four hours later.

Chief Insp. Nestor Gorio, acting provincial fire marshal of Benguet, said fire officials had yet to determine the cause of the fire.

PAF response

Another fire struck a forest area at Sitio Sta. Fe, also at Barangay Ampucao, on Thursday afternoon but no casualties were reported.

It was not immediately known whether the two fires were related.

The Philippine Air Force

(PAF) had sent its rescue helicopter to help contain the second forest fire, which was near Saint Louis High School at Philex Ampucao.

Mt. Pulag

"We had to return to the high school area because the fire grew bigger," Aratas said.

On Jan. 22 last year, the popular hiking destination Mt. Pulag in Benguet was hit by a fire caused by a damaged portable butane stove used by a couple of trekkers.

The stove burst. One trekker threw the burning stove toward the grassland, igniting a fire and causing dam-

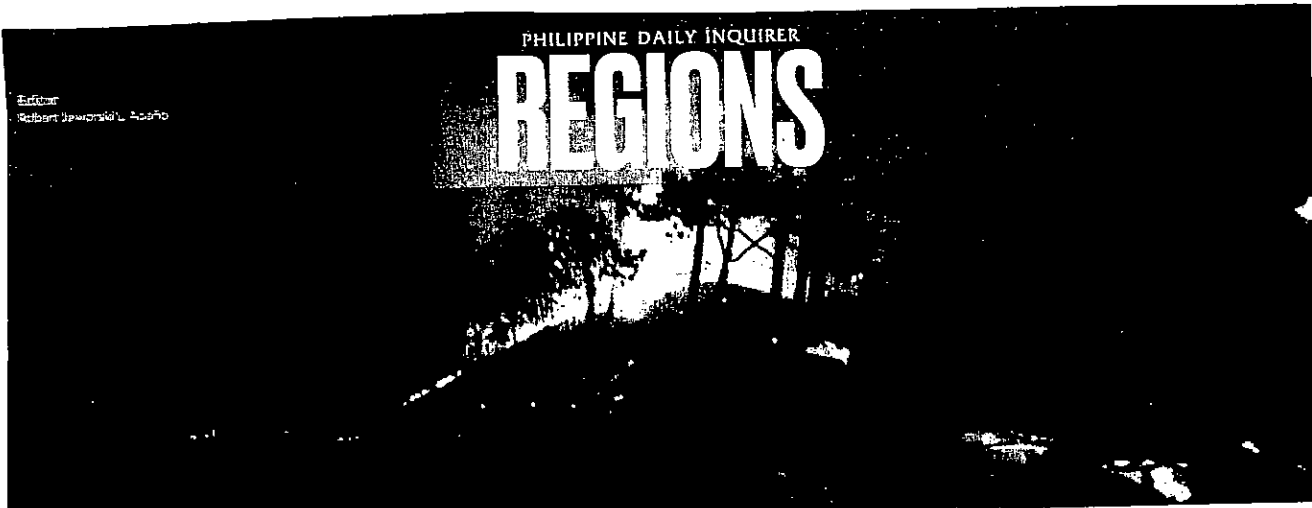
age estimated at P2.3 million.

Nearly 6 ha of vegetation, including the rare dwarf bamboo, were caught in the blaze that started at Saddle Camp in Mt. Pulag National Park.

The park draws approximately 400 hikers at any given time.

Last month, the Akiki trail, one of the major routes to Mt. Pulag, had been closed to trekkers after a forest fire razed parts of Poblacion and Eddet villages at Kabayan town in Benguet.

It took seven days for firefighters to put out the fire that began on Jan. 31. —KIMBERLIE QUITASOL INQ



DEADLY BLAZE Fire consumes a 6-hectare forest area in Benguet, killing five people. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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TYPE EXHIBIT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

22 FEB 2019

DATE

Benguet fire kills 4 foresters, villager

By **ZALDY COMANDA**

BAGUIO CITY — More than five hectares of forest land was destroyed by fire that also killed four foresters and a resident on the boundary of the towns of Itogon and Tuba, Benguet.

The area is covered by the Philex

mining Corporation, one of the largest mining areas in the Cordillera region.

The five victims were trying to put out a blaze Wednesday in Sitio Salangan and Saddle, Barangay Ampucao, Itogon.

Philex Foresters, identified as Constantino Molina, Noel Dagiym, Marlon Guiniguin, Dexter Labasan and Leon Mocate Sr., a resident of Itogon

Their bodies were found at the Philex Forestry Department's storage area that also burned down.

Fire investigators are still trying to determine the origin of the fire.



Trusted Since 1900

The Manila Times

A7
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

MAIN
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 FEB 2019

DATE

5 dead in Itogon forest fires

ITOGON, Benguet: Five people died in a 12-hour fire that gutted over 25 hectares of a forested area at Eastern Saddle, Ampucao, which was contained at dawn on Thursday.

Eulalio Austin Jr., Philex Mining Corp. president and chief executive officer, said four of the fatalities were permanent and contractual employees of the mining company tasked to assist in implementing the firm's environmental preservation and protection program, while another was a retired mine worker who was reportedly maintaining a vegetable plantation in Itogon.

Police identified the fatalities as Dante Molina, forestry supervisor of Philex Mines, Noel Degyem, Marlon Guinquin and Dexter Labasan, all contractual workers of the company, and Leon Mocate of Ampucao, Itogon.

"We sympathize with the family members and the relatives of the victims of one of the biggest

forest fires that ravaged part of the company's reforestation area. We salute the bravery and heroic act of the victims in trying to contain the fire from ravaging the school and the residential area that resulted in their untimely demise," Austin said.

He announced that family members and relatives of the victims would receive appropriate benefits and assistance from the company, saying the fire was just one in a series that continues to damage the company's gains in the implementation of its reforestation program, a part of their efforts to sustain the environment of their tenement area.

Austin said the victims responded to the area on Wednesday to help put up a fire line to prevent the flames from further inflicting damage to the school and residential area above it, but strong winds from different directions caused the fire to ravage the area, trapping the victims.

DEXTER A. SEE



Philex Mining-MVP sa Benguet nasunog: 4 DENR forester patay

TODAS ang limang katao sa naganap na forest fire sa bahagi ng Philex Mining Corporation (PMC) na pag-aari ng negosyanteng si Manny V. Pangilinan sa Barangay Ampuco, Itogon, Benguet noong Miyerkoles nang hapon.

Ayon kay Benguet acting fire marshal ng Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Chief Insp. Nestor Gorio, apat sa mga ito ay mga forester ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at isa naman ay residente sa nasabing barangay.

Sa inisyal na imbestigasyon, nangyari ang sunog sa parte ng PMC dakong alas-dos nang hapon at maaaring sinubukan ng mga biktima na apulahin ang sunog at dahil sa kapal ng usok ay na-suffocate ang mga ito na dahilan ng kanilang pagkamatay.

"Siguro sinubukan nilang mag-firefighting," ani Gorio.

Nahirapan umano ang mga pamatay-sunog na apulahin ang apoy dahil malakas ang hangin at masukal ang kagubatan.



Sa ngayon ay inaalam pa ng Itogon Fire Station (IFS) ang sanhi ng apoy na tumupok sa anim na hektaryang bahagi ng gubat. Karamihan sa mga tanim dito ay mga pine tree.

Nalaman pa na ang apat na DENR forester ay nasa lugar upang i-account ang mga pine tree na iniutos kamakailan ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Naapula ang forest fire bandang alas-kuwatro kahapon nang madaling-araw. (Allan Bergonia)



22 FEB 2019

DATE

5 PATAY SA FOREST FIRE

PATAY ang apat na forester at isa pa matapos masunog at ma-trap ang mga ito sa naganap na forest fire sa probinsya ng Benguet.

Kinilala ang mga namatay na miyembro ng Philex foresters na sina Dante Molina, Noel Degyem, Marlon Gulniguin at Dexter Labasa. Patay rin ang isang residente na si Leon Mocate.

Batay sa report ng Bu-

reau of Fire Protection-Cordillera Administrative Region (BFP-CAR), nagsimula ang sunog, 1:30 p.m. kamakalawa sa pag-aaring lupain ng Philex Mining Corporation sa Sitio Salangan, sa boundary ng mga munisipalidad ng Itogon at Tuba sa Benguet.

Tinatayang nasa lima hanggang anim na ektarya umabot ang nasunog na ikinatamatay ng mga biktima.

Inimbestigahan pa ang dahilan at halaga ng pinsala dulot ng forest fire.

Naapula ang sunog, bandang 4:00 a.m. kahapon ng madaling araw sa pagresponde ng Philex Fire Brigade, Itogon, Tuba at Baguio Fire Stations, PEZA Fire Brigade, PMA Fire Brigade. Tuba, Itogon at Baguio PNP.

**MARY ANNE SAPICO/
L. VINARAO/K. VERDEJO**



5 TEPOK SA FOREST FIRE

Istorya
sa
Pahina 5

5 patay sa Benguet forest fire

Nina RIZALDY COMANDA at FER TABOY

Patay ang limang katao, kabilang ang apat na tauhan ng Philex Mining Corporation nang ma-trap ang mga ito sa nirespondehan nilang halos limang oras na sunog sa kagubatan ng Sitio Salangan sa boundary ng Itogon at Tuba sa Benguet, nitong Miyerkules ng hapon.

Sa paunang ulal ng Bureau of Fire Protection-Cordillera Administrative Region (BFP-CAR), ang apat sa limang

nasawi ay pawang forestry personnel ng kumpanya na nakilalang sina Dante Molina, Noel Degyem, Marlon Guiniguin at Dexter Labasa habang ang ikalima ay residente na si Leon Mocate.

Sa report, ang sunog ay nangyari sa bahagi ng kagubatang pag-aari ng kumpanya sa Sitio Salangan, Bgy. Ampucao, kamakalawa, dakong 1:30 ng hapon.

Naabo rin sa sunod ang Forestry Department ng naturang mining company.

Sa pagtaya ng arson investigator, aabot sa anim na ektarya ang naapektuhan sa insidente.

Dakong 6:00 na ng gabi nang maapula ang sunog.

Patuloy pa ang isinasagawang imbestigasyon upang madetermina ang sanhi ng sunog at halaga ng

22 FEB 2019



DATE UPPER HALF
BANNAK
PAGE LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

5 DEAD IN BENGUET FOREST FIRE

BAGUIO CITY—Five men were killed on Wednesday while helping put out a fire that razed a 60-hectare forest area in Benguet province.

The victims, four of them foresters of Philex Mining Corp., went to help put out the blaze but were trapped when the fire quickly spread due to strong winds, according to lawyer Eduardo Aratas, the mining firm's legal officer.

The four foresters were identified as Dante Molina, Noel Dagiym, Marlon Guiniguin and Dexter Labasan, while the fifth fatality was Leon Mocate, a local resident.

>>PAGE 2

>>PAGE 1: 5 DEAD IN BENGUET-FOREST FIRE

Aratas said Philex would provide financial assistance to the victims' families as well as help transport their bodies to their hometowns.

The fire, which started around 1 p.m. on Wednesday, also destroyed a storage facility owned by the mining firm.

The affected area straddles the boundary of Itogon and Tuba towns in Benguet. The blaze was first seen at the eastern part of Sitio Sal-angan at

Barangay Ampucao in Itogon, and immediately spread to nearby areas.

Firemen from the two towns reached the area, about 30 kilometers from the Itogon fire station, around 2:30 p.m. The fire was declared under control four hours later.

Chief Insp. Nestor Gorio, acting provincial fire marshal of Benguet, said fire officials had yet to determine the cause of the fire.

Another fire struck a forest area at Sitio Sta. Pe,

also at Barangay Ampucao, on Thursday afternoon but no casualties were reported.

It was not immediately known whether the two fires were related.

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) had sent its rescue helicopter to help contain the second forest fire, which was near Saint Louis High School at Philex Ampucao.

"We had to return to the high school area because the fire grew bigger," Aratas said.—*Inquirer*



FOREST FIRE SA BENGUET: 5 PATAY

Limang katao kabilang ang apat na forest rangers ang inilulat na nasawi matapos ma-sullocate makara-ang sumiklab ang sunog sa kagubatan ng Sltoo Salangan, Brgy. Ampucao, Ilogon, Benguet, ayon sa opisyal kahapon.

Kinilala ang mga nasawing biktima na sina Dante Molina, Noel Degiyem, Marlon Gulningin at Dextr Labasan, pawang miyembro ng Philex Forestry.

Ang isa pa ay ang sibil-

Nina JOY CANTOS at trainee PRINCESS YVONNE GARCIA

yang si Leon Mocate na na-trap sa gilna nang nasusunog na kagubalan.

Sa report ni Cordillera Police Director P/Chief Supt. Rolando Zambate Nana, ang sunog ay tumupok sa tinatayang 5-6 hektaryang kagubatan na nagsimula dakong alas-4:35 ng hapon noong Pebrero 20.

Ang sunog ay mabilis na kumalat sa kabundukan na

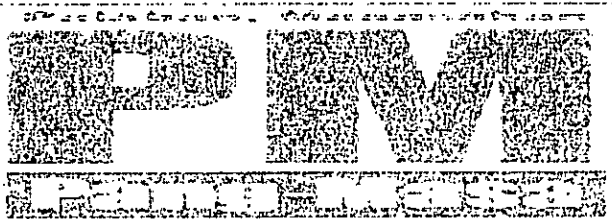
umabot hanggang sa Saint Luis High School-Philex Mines Ilogon, Benguet.

Mabilis namang nagresponde ang mga elemento ng Ilogon at Tuba Municipal Police Station (MPS), Bureau of Fire Protection-Tuba at Philex Fire Department kasama ang mga volunteers sa lugar upang apu-

lahin ang sunog.

Lumilitaw naman sa Imbestigasyon na ang sunog ay matapos na isang kaingero ang magsindi ng mga tuyong dahon at sanga ng punong kahoy sa kagubatan upang gawin umanong taniman.

Samantalang ang bangkay ng mga biktima ay narerekober naman ng nagrespondeng mga elemento ng Philex Fire Department.



22 FEB 2019

DATE

5 PATAY SA FOREST FIRE

Patay ang limang katao kabilang ang apat na forest rangers matapos na ma-suffocate nang sumiklab ang sunog sa kagubatan ng Sitoo Salangan, Brgy. Ampucao, Itogon, Benguet.

Ang mga nasawi ay kinilalang sina Dante Molina; Noel Degiyem; Marlon Guiningin at Dexter Labasan, pawang miyembro ng Philex Forestry at sibilyang si Leon Mocate na na-trap sa gitna nang nasusunog na kagubatan. Sa ulat ni Cordillera

Police Director P/Chief Supt. Rolando Zambale Nana, ang sunog ay tumupok sa tinatayang 5-6 hektaryang kagubatan na nagsimula alas-4:35 ng hapon noong Pebrero 20.

Mabilis na kumalat sa kabundukan na umabot hanggang sa Saint Luis High School -Philex Mines Itogon, Benguet.

Nagresponde ang mga elemento ng Itogon at Tuba Municipal Police Station (MPS), Bureau of Fire Protection-Tuba at Philex Fire

Department kasama ang mga volunteers sa lugar upang apulahin ang sunog.

Ang bangkay ng mga biktima ay narekober naman ng nagrespondeng mga elemento ng Philex Fire Department.

Batay sa imbestigasyon nagsimula ang sunog nang isang kaingero ang nagsindi ng mga tuyong dahon at sanga ng punong kahoy sa kagubatan upang gawin umanong taniman.-Joy Cantos-



22 FEB 2019

FILE:

PAGE 17

DATE

5 Foresters patay sa forest fire

BENGUET – Patay ang apat na forester at isa pa matapos masunog ang mga ito nang ma-trap sa naganap na forest fire, na nagsimula Miyerkules ng hapon sa probinsya ng Benguet.

Kinilala ng mga namatay na sina Philex foresters na sina Dante Molina, Noel Degycm, Marlon Guiniguin at Dexter Labasa at isang residente na si Leon Mocate.

Sa report ng Bureau of Fire Protection-Cordillera Administrative Region (BFP-CAR), nagsimula ang sunog ala-1:30 Miyerkules ng hapon sa property ng Philex Mining Corporation sa Sitio Sal-angan sa boundary ng mga munisipalidad ng Itogon at Tuba at Benguet.

Tinatayang lima hanggang anim na ektarya ang nasunog na ikinamatay ng limang katao habang patuloy naman iniimbestigahan ang dahilan at halaga ng pinsala dulot ng forest fire.

Tuluyan naapula ang sunog bandang 6:00 ng gabi nang mga rumesponden Philex Fire Brigade; Itogon, Tuba, at Baguio Fire Stations, PEZA Fire Brigade, PMA fire brigade at PNP-Tuba, Itogon sa Benguet at Baguio.



FOREST FIRE SA BENGUET, 5 PATAY

LIMA ang nasawi sa nangyaring forest fire sa bahagi ng lupang pagmamay-ari ng Philex Mining Corporation sa Sitio Sal-angan sa Itogon, Benguet.

Sa nakarating na report sa Police Regional Office-Cordillera Administrative Region (PRO-CAR), naiulat ang pagkalat ng apoy ala-1:30 ng Miyerkules ng hapon at idincklarang under control makalipas ang limang oras.

Na-trap sa nasusunog na gubat at hindi na nagawang makaligtas sina Leon Mocate, Dante

Molina, Noel Degycm, Marlon Guinigin at Dexter Labasa, pawang mga empleyado at forester ng nasabing kumpanya.

Sinasabing nasa loob ng kanilang gusaling tinutuluyan na Forestry Department ang mga biktima habang nasa kasagsagan ng sunog.

Samantala, nasa lima hanggang anim na ektarya ang nasunog na kagubatan.

Iniiimbestigahan pa ng mga awtoridad ang sanhi ng insidente.

(Jeff Tumbado)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



3
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 FEB 2019

DATE

5 MINALAS SA FOREST FIRE

BENGUET - LIMA ang patay sa forest fire sa bayan ng Itogon.

Pinangangambahang bukod sa limang nasawi ay maaring madagdagan pa ang bilang ng casualties bunsod ng mga ulat na may mga na trap pa sa loob ng nasusunog na kagubatan.

Sa ulat na ipinara-ting ng local disaster management risk reduction office may limang nasawi na kinilalang sina Dante Molina, Daniel Sugiyem, Dexter Labasan at Noel Guiniguin pawang foresters ng Philex Mining Company at ang sibilyan na si Leon Mocate.

Nakuha ang mga sunog na bangkay ng mga forester ng Philex Minings mula sa natupok na bahagi ng bundok.

Hanggang kahapon ay nagsasawa ng mop-ping up operation ang mga kinatawan ng pamatay sunog mula sa iba't ibang bayan ng nasabing lalawigan.

Magkatuwang ang Benguet PNP at Bureau of Fire Protection, nagsasagawa ngayon ng imbestigasyon para malaman ang pinanggalingan ng sunog.

Ayon kay Itogon Mayor Victorio Palangdan, dinala na sa morgue ng ospital ng na-

sabing mining company ang bangkay ng mga biktima para sa pagproseso.

Posible aniyang sinubukan ng mga biktima na magresponde at apulahin ang sunog ngunit nasama ang mga ito.

Napag-alaman din na nasunog pa ang storage area ng forestry department ng nasabing mining company.

Ayon sa mga arson investigator nagsimula ang sunog bandang ala-1:30 ng Miyerkoles at kumalat ito sa mahigit anim na ektaryang bahagi ng bundok kung saan umabot pa ito sa third alarm. **VERLIN RUIZ**



5 minero patay

Sunog sa Itonog binubusisi ng LGU

IPINAGPATULOY ang mopping up operations sa nangyaring malaking forest fire kamakalawa sa Itonog, Lalawigan ng Benguet na lima ang komfirmadong patay. Inaalam din sa gagawing imbestigasyon ang tunay na pinagmulan ng sunog.

Una nang kinilala ang mga namatay na foresters ng Philex Mining Company na sina Dante Molina, Dahiel Sugiyem, Dexter Labasan at Noel Guinguin habang kinilala ang sibilyan na si Leon Mocate na nakuha ang sunog na katawan mula sa natupok na bahagi ng bundok.

Gayonman, pinangangambahang madaragdagan pa ang nasabing bilang ng mga casualty dahil marami pa

umano ang na-trap sa nasabing sunog.

Ayon kay Itonog Mayor Victorio Palangdan, dinala na sa morgue ng ospital ng nasabing mining company ang bangkay ng mga biktima para sa pagproseso.

Aniya, posibleng sinubukan ng mga biktimang magresponde at apulahin ang sunog ngunit nasama sila.

Napag-alaman din na nasunog pa ang storage area ng forestry department ng nasabing mining company.

Nagsimula ang sunog 1:30 ng hapon, Miyerkoles hanggang masunog ang aabot sa anim na ektaryang bahagi ng bundok na umabot pa sa third alarm.

Idineklarang fire under control ang sunod pasado 6:00 ng gabi sa pamamagitan ng pinagsamang puwersa ng mga pulis, bombero, volunteers at personnel ng mining company.

Pansamantalang nawalan ng koryente ang ilang bahagi ng Itonog matapos maapektohan ng sunog ang pasilidad ng National Grid Corporation of the Philippines ngunit naibalik din pasado 6:00 ng gabi.



Over 11,000 rooms OK'd for Boracay

The number of accredited rooms in Boracay has breached the 11,000 mark, data from the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) showed.

In its latest Boracay bulletin, the BIATF said there are now a total of 316 compliant accommodation establishments with a total of 11,612 rooms.

Only establishments that have complied with the requirements of the Department

of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Tourism (DOT) are allowed to operate in Boracay.

"More rooms will be available as we continue with Phase 2 and 3 of the Boracay rehabilitation. We are making sure the task force's requirements are complied with 100 percent," Tourism Secretary

Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said.

The task force urged the public not to book with establishments that have no permits from the DOT, DENR and DILG.

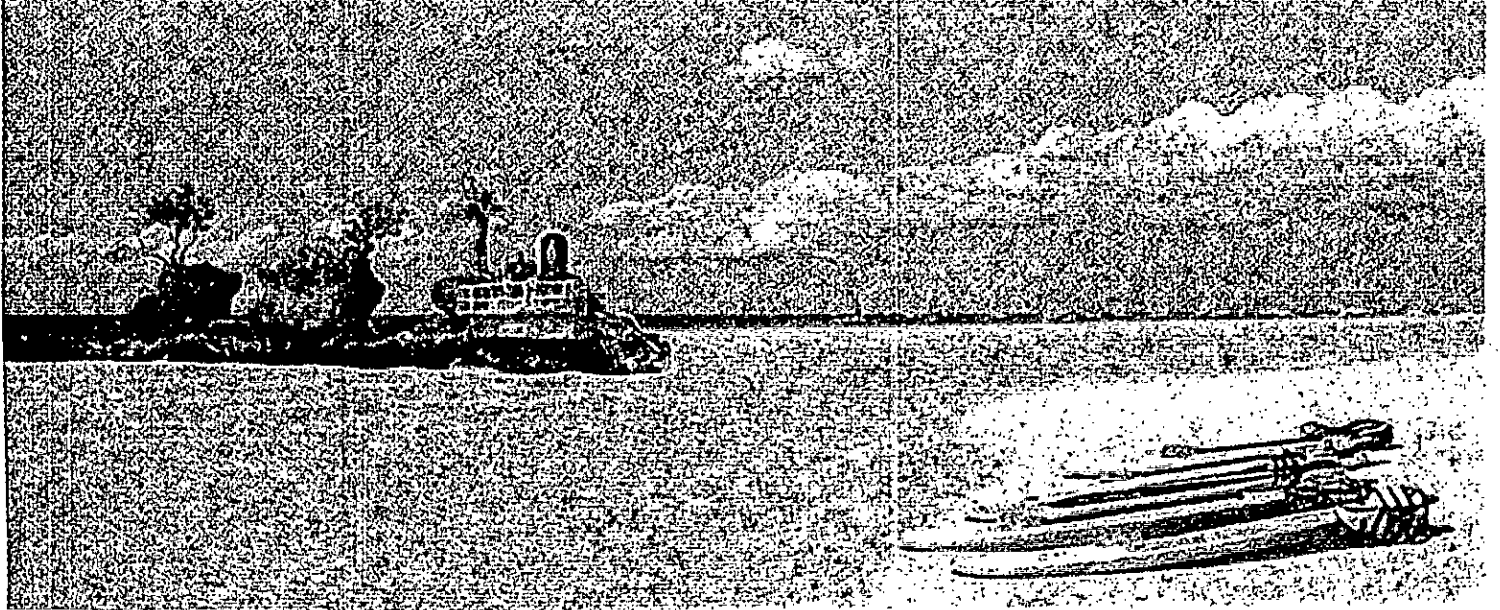
Before the island's closure in April, Boracay had roughly 15,000 to 16,000 available rooms.

The government is limiting the number of tourists in Boracay to ensure the sustain-

ability of the island, which was reopened in October after it was closed for rehabilitation for six months.

A study commissioned by the DENR showed that Boracay's carrying capacity is only 55,757 people per day, including its residents. Only 19,215 tourists are allowed to be on the island at a given time, with 6,405 tourists allowed to enter the island per day.

Catherine Talavera





22 FEB 2019

DATE

PROBINSIYA

Discipline zone sa Boracay

BORACAY ISLAND, Malay Aklan - Pormal na isinailalim ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Malay, Aklan sa disciplined zone ang front beach ng isla ng Boracay.

Ayon kay Supt. Antonio Dizon, hepe ng Malay Police, layunin ng kanilang hakbang na matuto ang mga residente at turista na mapangalagaan ang isla.

Naging lesson learned na aniya sa mga residente ang pagsasara nito ng anim na buwan noong nakaraang taon dahil sa umano'y kapabayaan ng marami para protektahan ang Boracay.

Ayon kay Dizon, sa tulong ng ibat ibang ahensiya ay isasakatuparan sa front beach ang liang alituntunin, katulad ng pagbabawal na pagkalat ng basura, fire dancing, at iba pa na alinsunod sa ordinansa.

Bibigyan aniya nila ng citation tiket para sa itinakdang multa ang sinumang turista o residente na lalabag sa patakaran.

Tara Yap



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

22 FEB 2019

DATE

CV, CALABARZON clean-up drives

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Visayas will hold simultaneous river clean-up activities in different parts of the region today.

Cindylyn Ochea, head of the environmental education and information section of the Environmental Management Bureau in Central Visayas, said the activity is in line with the "RIVERS for Life" Program of the agency.

The program aims to raise awareness on the need to protect and sustainably manage the rivers, especially among the communities near riversides.

"Rivers are the lifeblood of the Earth and the people, and we are urging everyone, most especially those living near rivers, to make a habit of cleaning and protecting them," Ochea said.

The simultaneous clean-up will be held in rivers in Cebu, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor.

There are 33 rivers in the region and 12 of these need to be rehabilitated. She said these rivers are located in densely-populated areas.

Meanwhile, the DENR Calabarzon is calling for volunteers for the region-wide simultaneous clean-up activities on 1 March in celebration of the World Wildlife Day with the theme "Life Below Water: For People and Planet."

This year's celebration aims to highlight critical issues on aquatic and marine wildlife and its role in ensuring ecological balance.

The DENR said the looming problem on waste management poses threats to aquatic and marine species.

All provinces within CALABARZON will have a designated clean-up site.

To recall, in November last year, Cimatú ordered all regional directors to clean up polluted rivers in their respective areas within one year's time or they will be removed from office. **KCG**



RIVERS like this one in Cebu will be cleaned by DENR-7.

FILE PHOTO



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

TYPE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1800

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



22 FEB 2019
DATE

Imus launches first green school program

By ANTHONY GIRON

IMUS, Cavite — Imus has launched the first Green School program that will promote environmental awareness among the citizens, particularly the youth, and take measures and actions that will care and protect Mother Nature.

Monday's launching was made by the local government, the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other concerned agencies at the Imus National High School-Main Campus, a national awardee having been a pilot and model school on environmental undertakings and other activities.

The Green School program is the first in the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) area. The pro-

gram had long been being practiced in the United States and other progressive countries in Asia like India and Indonesia.

The program involves students, teachers, school officials, parents and concerned sectors in the caring of plants and trees, water and energy conservation, cleanliness, waste segregation, cleanliness, plastic use and anything that will keep the environment healthy.

The Green School was made after the local government under Mayor Leonardo Maliksi entered into a long-term venture with the DepEd, DENR and other agencies.

The Green School program "cannot be made overnight, we will take a long journey to realize it," Maliksi said in his message during the program launching.

The program includes the putting up of solar energy and rainwater harvesting systems and sewerage treatment plant and electronic vehicles or e-vehicles.

The initial four actions will help in the promotion of renewable sources of energy, improvement of water quality as well as water and energy conservation, it was gathered.

"We (also) envision the City of Imus as the city of the future through the establishment of modern, green and sustainable programs," Maliksi said.

The launching was attended by Vice Mayor Arnel M. Cantimbuhan, DepEd, DENR officials, City Councilors Dennis T. Lacson, Exequiel Ropeta and Argel Reyes, department heads, barangay captains, officials from different public and private schools and other sector officers.



RP ENERGY PROMOTES 'PAWIKAN' CONSERVATION IN ZAMBALES

IN line with the company's Protect the Bay initiative, Redondo Peninsula Energy (RP Energy) employees and volunteers went to the Pawicare Hatchery, a sea-turtle conservation site in San Narciso, Zambales, on February 7 to release 60 new hatchlings and learn more about local sustainability efforts for these creatures.

The PawiCare Hatchery is currently managed by environment organization Katimpuyog Zambales together with the local government of San Narciso and the local fisherfolks called "La Paz rangers".

"We admire the *malasakit* of the Pawicare volunteers who stay up all night to help preserve our rich biodiversity. Their story is worth replicating throughout the country," according to Litz Santana, vice president and head of external affairs at Meralco PowerGen, the parent company of RP Energy.

"I believe every Filipino, especially kids, should experience a *pawikan*-releasing activity at least once in their lifetime," said Jason Gavina, corporate social responsibility (CSR) officer of RP Energy. "This is how we can effectively teach them the value of protecting our environment while, at the same time, learning more about our rich biodiversity."

Protect the Bay is RP Energy's

CSR program for the protection and conservation of Subic Bay. Its members include various partners from SBMA, local government units, private sector and civic organizations, such as JCI Olongapo, Kabalikat Civicom and the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs. The group organizes coastal cleanup, recycled art competitions, river cleanups, information drives, environmental forums and other related programs.

Besides regular releases of new *pawikan* hatchlings, RP Energy has

been exerting efforts to promote sea creatures. In July 2018 the company partnered with Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf Philippines to host a forum titled "Lessons from Pawicare".

RP Energy is the developer of a 2x300-megawatt coal-fired power plant in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Photo shows awed volunteers, together with Pawicare rangers, while carefully releasing the newly hatched sea turtles by the beach in Barangay La Paz, San Narciso, Zambales.





Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 FEB 2019

DATE



RPE SUMUSUPORTA SA PAWIKAN CONSERVATION EFFORTS – Maingat na pinakakawalan ng mga volunteer, kasama ang Pawicare rangers, ang mga bagong pisang pawikan sa beach sa Brgy. La Paz, San Narciso, Zambales. Kaugnay sa Protect the Bay Initiative ng kompanya, ang mga empleyado at volunteer ng Redondo Peninsula Energy (RP Energy) ay nagtungo sa Pawicare Hatchery, isang sea turtle conservation site sa San Narciso, Zambales noong Pebrero 7 upang pakawalan ang 60 bagong hatchlings.



BULGAR

3
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

HEADER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

22 FEB 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

BOSES ng PINOY, MATA ng BAYAN

MASANGSANG at hindi kanais-nais na amoy ang tatlong taon na umanong tinitis ng mga residente sa Barangay Balili, La Trinidad, Benguet. Ito ay dahil sa nangangamoy na drainage sa kanilang lugar na dinadaluyan umano ng septic waste.

Base sa kuwento ng ilang mga residente, halos araw-araw nilang naaamoy ang drainage kung saan ang mga tao ay hindi na halos makadaan malapit dito, gayundin ang mga nagtinda na nakapuwesto malapit sa drainage ay bumili pa umano ng electric fan para lang mai-taboy ang nakaduduwal na amoy.

Alam nating maraming lugar sa bansa ang walang proper waste management kaya naman imbes na maging malinis ang kapaligiran ay lalo itong dumurumi na nagreresulta sa pagkakaroon ng mabahong mga ilog at kanal.

'Yung tipong halos mapuno na 'yung ilog ng basura tulad ng mga plastik, diaper at marami pang iba, nakadidismaya talaga!

Samantala, ang nakababahala pa rito, ang hinihilang septic waste ay dumadaloy umano papunta sa Balili River na mayroong habang 23.81 kilometers na nagdurugtong sa Baguio at ibang municipalities ng La Union at Sablan.

Gayunman, noong nakaraang taon ay nagsumite na umano ng peticyon ang mga residente sa kanilang barangay para maresolba ito, pero ayon sa tanggapan ng Barangay Balili, naipabatid na nila ito sa municipal mayor, pero hindi pa nahahanap kung saan nagmumula ang mabahong amoy kaya hanggang ngayon ay wala pa rin silang nagagawang solusyon.

Bagama't, hindi nila mahanap, hindi 'yun sapat na dahilan para hayaan lang ito kabit na



BOSES

NI RYAN B. SISON

Mabahong drainage na matagal ng pinagtitiisan ng mga residente sa La Trinidad, Benguet, aksiyunan!

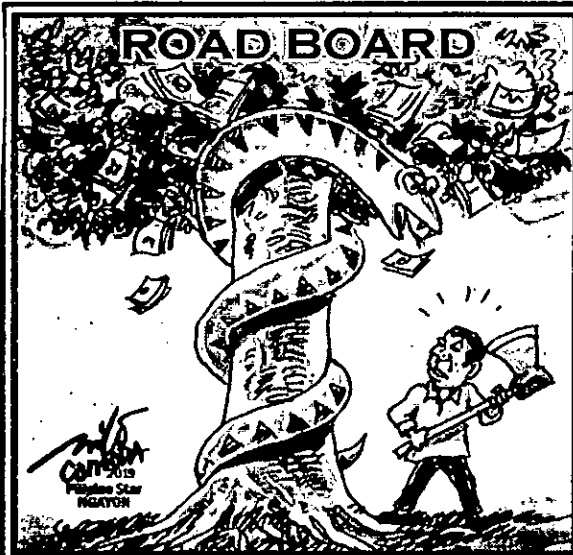
alam na nilang maraming residente ang maaaring manganib ang buhay, sa totoo lang, dapat hindi na ito pinatatagal pa ng mga kinauukulan, lalo na kung kalusugan na ng mamamayan ang naaapektuhan!

Kaya ang panawagan natin sa lokal na pamahalaan sa Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (MENRO), inspeksiyunin ang lugar at tuluyan ng tuldukan ang matagal ng problema ng mga nakatira sa nasabing lugar.

Imposibleng, hindi malalaman kung saan nagmumula ang mabahong amoy kung tala-gang ginagawan ng paraan.

Samantala, ang paalala natin para sa lahat, ang mga lalabag sa Republic Act 9275 o Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 kada araw ay maaaring magmula ng P200,000, kaya kung ayaw nating maparusahan, alagaan natin ang kalikasan at magkaroon tayo ng pakialam sa kapaligiran!

Para sa inyong opinyon, sumbong, hinaing o nais hingin tulong ito ang pagkakataong maring ang inyong boses, sumulat lamang sa BOSES ni RYAN SISON at ipadala sa Bulgar Bldg. 538 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City o mag-email sa boses.bulgar@gmail.com.



Editorial

Huwag nang patagalin pa ang buhay ng Road Board

NAKAPAGTATAKA kung bakit hindi pa nilalagdaan ni President Duterte ang House Bill 7436 na nag-a-abolish sa graft-ridden Road Board. Matagal na umanong nasa mesa ng Presidente ang panukala pero wala pang aksiyon. Mas nauna pa niyang lagdaan ang ilang batas na hindi naman prayoridad. Kapag hindi pa nilagdaan ng Presidente ang HB 7436, sa loob ng 30 araw, mawawalan na ito ng saysay.

Tiyak na maraming motorista ang masisilyahan kapag nalagdaan na ang batas. Mabubuwig na rin ang ahensiyang kumukolekta sa motor vehicle user's charge (MVUC) na binabayaran ng motorista taun-taon kapag nagre-renew ng sasakyan. Umalingasaw ang baho ng corruption sa Road Board noon pang 2017 at nalanghap ito ng Presidente. Nakiusap siya sa Kongreso na buwagin ito. Nakilisa rin ang Senado kaya naging mabilis ang pasya para sa pagbuwag sa maanomalyang ahensiya. Ayon sa report, mula 2001 hanggang May 2018, ang total collection mula sa MVUC ay P166.18 bilyon. Ang laki!

Sa ilalim ng HB 7436, ang pondo na makukuha sa MVUC ay ire-remit sa National Treasury sa ilalim ng special account sa General Fund. Ang pondo ay eksklusibong gagamitin lamang sa pagpapagawa, pagre-repair, pag-a-upgrade at pag-rehabilitate ng mga kalsada, tulay at drainage system. Makakasama ang pondo sa taunang General Appropriations Act.

Hindi nagagamit nang maayos ang pondo sa ilalim ng Road Board kaya nalsip ng Presidente na buwagin na ito. Marami nang bai-balita sa nangyayaring korupsiyon sa Road Board pero walang maglakas ng loob na magreklamo para mahalukay ang tungkol sa nalilikom na pondo.

Maraming motorista rin ang nagtatanong kung bakit sa kabila nang taun-taon na pagbabayad ng MVUC ay sira-sira pa rin ang mga kalsada at tulay. Bukod pa rito, marami rin ang walang sapat na signages o mga babala sa kalsada. Ang mga gilid ng bundok ay walang railings dahilang para mahulog ang mga pampasahero at pribadong sasakyan. Marami nang malalagim na pangyayari na ang pampasaherong bus ay nahuhulog sa bangin dahil sa kawalan ng barriers.

Hindi na dapat patagalin pa ng Presidente ang buhay ng Road Board. Lagdaan na ang batas para masimulan na ang pagpapagawa sa mga sirang kalsada, tulay, drainage at maski ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. Nasa kamay ng Presidente ang katuparan nito.