

24 FEB 2019

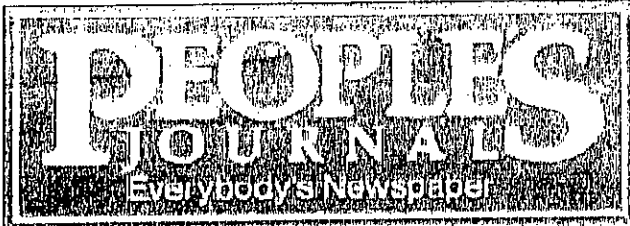
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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



24 FEB 2019

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Closure of erring Boracay establishments to continue -- DENR

**By Joel dela
Torre**

THE government is not yet done with clamping down on erring establishments in the world-famous Boracay island resort.

The Boracay Inter-agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIRMG) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ordered the closure of a beach resort in the island for operating without the necessary permits and clearances from the national and local governments.

Newly-appointed BIRMG general manager and Environment Director Natividad Bernardino identified the erring establishment as Boracay Plaza Beach Resort located in Station 1 of the top

tourist destination spot.

In April last year, the Boracay Plaza Beach Resort was issued a demolition order after its front and back sides were found to have exceeded the required coastal road easements.

Bernardino said while all of its neighboring establishments have demolished their illegal structures, the Boracay Plaza continued to operate in defiance of the law that resulted in its closure.

Existing laws and regulations set the coastal easement in the island at 30 meters and the road easement at six meters from the center of the road.

All establishments found violating easement laws were ordered to suspend operations pending the removal of the illegal structures.

"This is part of our continuing effort to compel all establishments to comply with environmental laws and regulations," Bernardino said.

She also appealed to everyone concerned to comply with the law while sending a warning to establishment owners who have yet to comply with existing regulations not to operate until they secure the required clearances and permits.

"Let us not waste the success of the rehabilitation efforts which started last year," the DENR official said.

Bernardino said the crackdown is not only implemented in the world-famous Boracay island resort but also in the fast-rising tourist destinations El Nido and Coron, Palawan and Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro.



Boracay resort shut down for lack of permit

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON
and RHODINA VILLANUEVA

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has shut down a beach resort in Boracay for operating without necessary permits and clearances.

The Boracay Interagency Task Force on Friday served the closure order to Boracay Plaza Beach Resort located in Station 1 as part of the efforts to compel all establishments to comply with environmental laws and regulations.

In April last year, the Boracay Plaza was issued a demo-

lition order after it was found to have exceeded the required coastal and road easements on the island.

Existing laws and regulations set the coastal easement on the island at 30 meters and the road easement at six meters from the center of the road.

All establishments found

violating the easement laws were ordered to suspend operations pending the removal of their illegal structures.

The Boracay Plaza reportedly defied the order and continued to operate, although all neighbouring establishments have demolished their illegal structures.

"All establishments which have yet to comply with existing laws and regulations should not operate until they secure all necessary permits and clearances. There should be no let-up in our efforts to

complete the rehabilitation of Boracay Island," Boracay interagency rehabilitation management group general manager Natividad Bernardino said.

The six-month rehabilitation of the country's top tourist destination has been considered the "single biggest accomplishment" of the DENR last year.

Boracay was closed in April 2018 and was reopened in October. Not all business establishments were allowed to reopen and tourist influx is still being controlled.



Defiant Boracay establishment padlocked

We appeal to everyone concerned to comply with the law

By **Kuhlin Ceslie Gacula**

As part of its continuing efforts to compel all establishments in Boracay Island to comply with environmental laws and regulations, the inter-agency task force recently ordered the closure of a beach resort for operating without the necessary permits and clearances.

Ordered close was Boracay Plaza Beach Resort, which in April last year was issued a demolition order after its front and back sides

were found to have exceeded the required coastal and road easements.

Director Natividad Bernardino, newly-appointed general manager of Boracay inter-agency rehabilitation management group, said existing laws and regulations set the coastal easement on the island at 30 meters.

On the other hand, the road easement was set at six meters from the center of the road. All establishments found violating easement laws were ordered to suspend

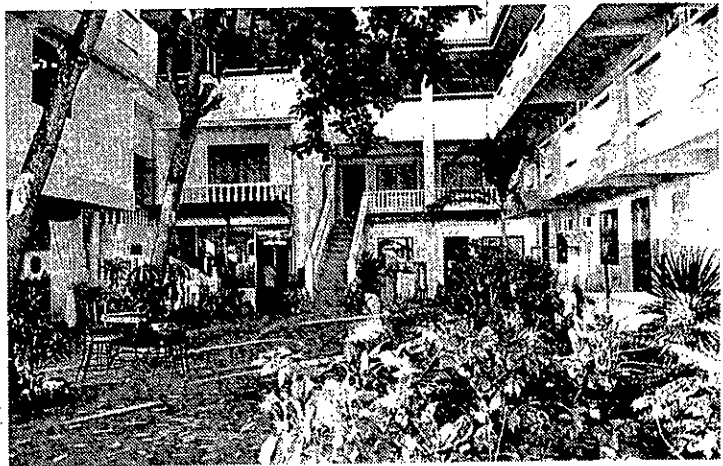
operations pending the removal of their illegal structures.

In the case of Boracay Plaza, it continued to operate in defiance of the law while all of its neighboring establishments have demolished their illegal structures.

"We appeal to everyone concerned to comply with the law," Bernardino said.

"Let us not waste the success of the rehabilitation efforts which started last year. All establishments which have yet to comply with existing laws and regulations should not operate until they secure all necessary permits and clearances," she added.

"There should be no let-up in our efforts to complete the rehabilitation of Boracay Island," she said.



THE erring firm.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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Boracay beach resort closed

By CORY MARTINEZ

THE Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) yesterday closed down a beach resort in Boracay for operating without the necessary permits and clearances from the national and local governments. Continued on Page 12

(SDEU) na pinangunahan ni SPO2 Victor Abalos, Jr. dakong 5:30 p.m. sa Bgy. 127 nang matiyempuhan nila si Cuneta habang may sinusuri na mistulang plastic sachet ng shabu sa kanto ng M. Dela Cruz at Maryluz Sts.

Kaagad na sinita ng mga pulis si Cuneta at nang kapkapan ay nakuha pa sa kanya ang dalawang sachet na naglalaman ng shabu na may kabuuang halagang P12,000.

Kilala ang pamilya Cuneta sa naturang lungsod dahil sa laki ng kaniilang angkan kaya't inaalam ngayon ng pulisya kung kabilang ang suspek sa naturang pamilya.

BORACAY

From Page 1

Ordered closed was the Boracay Plaza Beach Resort located in Station 1, Boracay Island.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Director Natividad Bernardino said the move is part of their continuing efforts to compel all establishments to comply with environmental laws and regulations.

Bernardino, newly-appointed general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group, dis-

closed that in April last year, the said resort was issued a demolition order after its front and back sides were found to have exceeded the required coastal and road easements.

Existing laws and regulations set the coastal easement in the island at 30 meters and the road easement at six meters from the center of the road. All establishments found violating easement laws were ordered to suspend operations pending the removal of their illegal structures.

Boracay Plaza, reportedly continued to operate in defiance of the law

while all of its neighboring establishments have demolished their illegal structures.

"We appeal to everyone concerned to comply with the law," said Bernardino. "Let us not waste the success of the rehabilitation efforts which started last year. All establishments which have yet to comply with existing laws and regulations should not operate until they secure all necessary permits and clearances. There should be no let-up in our efforts to complete the rehabilitation of Boracay Island," she added.

Bernardino has initiated similar crackdowns



in El Nido and Coron, Palawan and Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro when she was regional director of DENR-MIMAROPA.



1 sa pinakamatandang Boracay resort ikinandado

Dahil sa patuloy na paglabag at hindi pagtalima sa kautusan, in-utos ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pagsasara sa isa sa pinakamatandang resort sa Boracay, ang Boracay Plaza Resort na nasa Station 1.

"Ang" closure order laban sa nasabing resort ay kauna-kaunahan sa pagbubukas muli ng isla matapos ang isinagawang rehabilitation

noong nakaraang taon.

Ayon sa DENR, patuloy na nilalabag ng establisimyento ang road easement law at patuloy na nag-ooperate nang walang kaukulang clearance at permit.

Nabatid na Abril 2018 pa nang isyuhang demolition order ng DENR ang resort dahil sa paglabag sa easement law subalit hindi ito tumalima sa kautusan at patuloy ang paglabag.

"The beach resort continued to operate in defiance of the law" ayon sa DENR.

Puna pa ng DENR, ang mga katabing establisimyento ng Plaza Resort na nagkaroon ng paglabag sa easement law ay inalis na ang kanilang mga illegal structure maliban sa nasabing resort kaya naman ang pinal na hatol ng ahensiya ay tuluyan na itong ipasara. **(Tina Mendoza)**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Gov't orders closure of Boracay beach resort

By **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

The government's clamp down on erring establishments in Boracay continues, as a beach resort was ordered closed on Saturday for operating without the necessary permits and clearances.

The Boracay Inter-agency Task Force served the closure order against

Boracay Plaza Beach Resort located in the island's Station 1.

"This is part of our continuing effort to compel all establishments to comply with environmental laws and regulations," DENR Director Natividad Bernardino, newly appointed general manager of Boracay Inter-agency Rehabilitation Management Group, said.

On April last year, Boracay Plaza Beach Resort was issued a demolition order after its front and back sides were found to have exceeded the required coastal and road easements.

Existing laws and regulations set the coastal easement in the island at 30 meters and the road easement at six meters from the center of the road.

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easement laws were ordered to suspend operations pending the removal of their illegal structures.

In the case of Boracay Plaza, it continued to operate in defiance of the law while all of its neighboring establishments have demolished their illegal structures.

"We appeal to everyone concerned to comply with the law," Bernardino said.

"Let us not waste the success of the rehabilitation efforts which started last year. All establishments which have yet to comply with existing laws and regulations should not operate until they secure all necessary permits and clearances. There should be no let-up in our efforts to complete the rehabilitation of Boracay Island," she added.



PRRC makikipagtulungan sa Manila Bay task force

MAKIKIPAGTULUNGAN ang Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) sa Manila Bay Task Force na binuo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte para sa mapabilis ang rehabilitasyon ng look ng Maynila.

Binuo ang task force sa bisa ng Administratio Order No. 16 at nilagdaan ni Duterte nitong Pebrero 19 para maipatupad nang mabilis at mapag-isa ang lahat ng pag-sisikap sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Pangunahing tungkulin ng PRRC ang paglilinis ng mga estero na kabilang sa daluyang tubig ng Ilog Pasig na nagdidiretso sa Manila Bay.

Ayon kay PRRC Executive Director Jose Antonio "Ka Pepeton" Goitia, tinatayang 50 pamilya ang nakatira sa tabi ng Estero de San Miguel malapit sa Pablo Casal Bridge sa Quiapo, Maynila na linggo-linggong nililinis ng PRRC river warriors.

"Kailangan talagang maging responsible tayo na iwasang magtapon ng basura, lalo ang plastik, sa lahat ng estero sa Metro Manila," ani Goitia. "Wasto lamang na igalang at sundin natin ang Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte dahil ang mga aksiyon niya ay para sa kapakanan ng susunod na henerasyon."

Kabilang ang pamilya ni Nora Gimba sa mga pamilyang naninirahan sa tabi ng Estero de San Miguel.

"Nung dati sinabihan na rin kami na i-relocate. 'Yung iba tapos na, 'yung iba hindi pa, tulad ko hanggang ngayon nandiyan pa. Kung ako papilihin, gusto ko dito muna kasi nag-aaral 'yung mga ko sa Geronimo," ani Gimba.

Tuloy-tuloy ang PRRC river warriors sa clean-up drive sa mga estero sa Maynila lalo't ang mga basurang nakukuha sa mga daluyang tubig lalo ang plastik ay nagdidiretso sa Manila Bay.



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PRRC MAKIKIPAGTULUNGAN SA MANILA BAY TASK FORCE

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Ayon kay PRRC Executive Director Jose Antonio "Ka Pepeton" Goitia, tinatayang 50 pamilya ang nakatira sa tabi ng Estero de San Miguel malapit sa Pablo Casal Bridge sa Quiapo, Manila na linggo-linggong nililinis ng PRRC river warriors.

"Kailangan talagang maging responsable tayo na iwasang magtapon ng basura, lalo ang plastik, sa lahat ng estero sa Metro Manila," ani Goitia. "Wasto lamang na igalang at sundin natin ang Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte dahil ang mga aksiyon niya ay para sa kapakanan ng susunod na

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"Nu'ng dati sinabihan na rin kami na i-relocate. 'Yung iba tapos na, 'yung iba hindi pa, tulad ko hanggang ngayon nandiyan pa... kung ako papipiliin, gusto ko rito muna kasi nag-aaral 'yung mga anak ko sa Geronimo," ani Gimba.

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*Kailangan talagang maging

responsable tayò na iwasang magtapon ng basura, lalo ang plastik, sa lahat ng estero sa Metro Manila," ani Goitia. "Was-to lang na igalang at sundin natin si Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte dahil ang mga aksiyon niya ay para sa kapakanan ng susunod na henerasyon."

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Manila Standard

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SAVING MANILA BAY

I CAN just imagine how many romantic relationships blossomed on Manila Bay. I remember, when I was new here in Manila, and that was around half-a-century ago, I still didn't have too many friends from here and had a lot of free time on my own. So on weekends, I would make it a point to spend my afternoons in Roxas Boulevard, walking from the US Embassy towards Aristocrat for my supper, enjoying the calming effect of the golden sunset on the placid waters of the bay, with the fresh sea breeze blowing from every which way.

Sometimes, I would just sit on the seawall, watching some people maneuver their fishing rods, to catch what they probably would be having for supper. Of course, my mention of "fresh sea breeze" and "fishing" points to the fact that these could only have happened a very long time ago!



MERCURY RISING
BY BOB ZOZOBRAO

When I started to establish my career here in the big city, I began to notice the continuous desecration of what once was my favorite de-stressing hangout. The golden sunset was no longer glorious, as the view came with litter floating on the waters of the bay. The area near the Manila Yacht Club smelled like drainage clogged with human waste.

Sadly, through the recent years, Manila Bay, to me, could only be appreciated from inside my car, as I drive along Roxas Boulevard to and from my residence. This way, the garbage on the water is not visible and the foul smell of drainage won't bother me inside the air-conditioned vehicle. A disgrace to what was once the pride of Manila!

Fast forward to the appointment of my friend, Bobby Joseph, as Commodore of the Manila Yacht Club. I was very happy to hear his first pronouncement—to help clean up Manila Bay. I found out that, as early as 2008, the Supreme Court had already ordered 13 government agencies to rehabilitate and preserve the Bay, but nothing has been done about it.

Turn to D2



The glorious sunset of Manila Bay is captured in this photo taken right after the January 27 cleanup drive.



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SAVING... From D1

The Boracay fiasco got several government agencies working 24/7 to meet our President's deadline to clean up our world-famous beach destination within six months. Thank goodness to our President's iron hand, finally, something has been done about the festering Boracay problem.

Of course, the President's instructions applied also to our other natural tourism attractions, but aside from news bits about solving similar drainage problems affecting El Nido and Bohol beaches, I didn't hear of any move from any government agency to stop the continuous defilement of my erstwhile favorite de-stressing destination. If ever there was any, there was not much fanfare about it.

That is why I was ecstatic when I read in the papers, shortly after Commodore Joseph's declaration, that Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu immediately did an ocular, to determine the extent of work that has to be done to restore Manila Bay to its old glory.

I was even happier to learn that the DENR now leads an inter-agency super body composed of the 13 government agencies, tapped to rehabilitate Manila Bay—Interior and Local Government, Tourism, Public Works and Highways, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Education, Agriculture, Health, Philippine Coast Guard, Budget and Management, Metropolitan Waterworks and

Sewerage System, Philippine National Police, and Philippine Ports Authority.

In fact, one recent weekend, January 27 to be exact, there was a "call for action" to further highlight the government's resolve to finally do something to save the Bay, with a massive Luneta assembly of employees of the involved government agencies, civic groups, students, etc., and they later marched along Roxas Boule-

YOUR WEEKEND CHUCKLE

The effective radius of Wi-Fi is limited, but the effective radius of Wife-Eye is unlimited, and works even without power!

vard to dramatize their involvement in the cleanup drive.

What's even gratifying to hear is the snowball effect this long overdue move has created. I read the other day that even residents of CALABARZON have initiated the commendable act of restraining garbage from their area from flowing into our Bay. Hopefully, those in the other provinces will do the same. Large commercial establishments here in the metro have also volunteered to clean up the *esteros* that lead to the Bay, definitely a noteworthy undertaking!

However, what is quite worrisome is the report I read just the other day. DILG

Secretary Eduardo Año called a meeting of all mayors of towns and cities in Luzon that affect the Manila Bay watershed area. Four Metro Manila mayors did not attend, and some just sent their representatives. Could it be because a major factor that contributes to the pollution of the Bay are the informal settlers along the *esteros*, the same people who could deliver votes to these mayors in the upcoming midterm elections?

Although the Manila Bay cleanup drive started with a big bang, and the President has already approved the P47-billion budget for this project, the big question is—will it really succeed, considering the seemingly lukewarm support of some Metro Manila mayors? I'm keeping my fingers, my legs, and everything else crossed!

This lackadaisical attitude of these officials who should have eagerly thrown in their full support to this cause is quite unsettling. Nevertheless, I am still grateful to my friend, Bobby Joseph for having been the "spark plug" for this rehabilitation efforts. A heartfelt handshake also to DENR Secretary Cimatu, DILG Secretary Año and DoT Secretary Romulo-Puyat for taking up the cudgels for the many of us saddened by the past administrations' cruel neglect of this "national treasure." Thank you all for this energized endeavor to save Manila Bay!

For feedback, I'm at
bobzozobrado@gmail.com.

(Photos courtesy of Pete Dacuycuy)

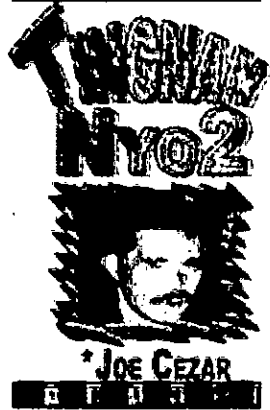


This shows the sharp contrast before and after the initial cleanup drive to further dramatize the work that has been done on Manila Bay so far.



SHOWBIZ

e-mail:
blessiecirera@yahoo.com



serbisyo sa bayan.
Sa lawak ng Manila Bay, masasabing malaking linisan pa ang kinakailangan at hindi natatapos lang sa ilang araw na linisan. Kailangan ding siguraduhin na mapanatili ang kalinisan. Kaya tuwing Sabado ay tuluy-tuloy ang clean-up drive ng Manila Bay.

Ani Usec. Antiporda, kung ang mga artista natin ay boluntaryong makikipagtulungan sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay, ito ay magiging malaking factor para mas marami pang mahikayat na mga mamamayan na makiisa sa

milyong Pinoy ang walang habas na magtatapon ng basura kung saan-saan lang ay tone-toneladang basura ang magkakat at sisira sa kalikasan sa loob lang ng isang araw. ***

Manila Bay clean-up drive. dapat suportahan ng artista



MARAMING nagulat sa boluntaryong aksyon ng aktres na si Antoinette Taus na makiisa sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay para sa #battle for Manila Bay of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Alam naman natin na kilala si Antoinette sa kanyang mga adbokasiya sa kalikasan.

Seryosohang paglilinis ang ginawa ng grupo ng aktres na ilang daang sako rin ng mga basura ang kanilang natipon.

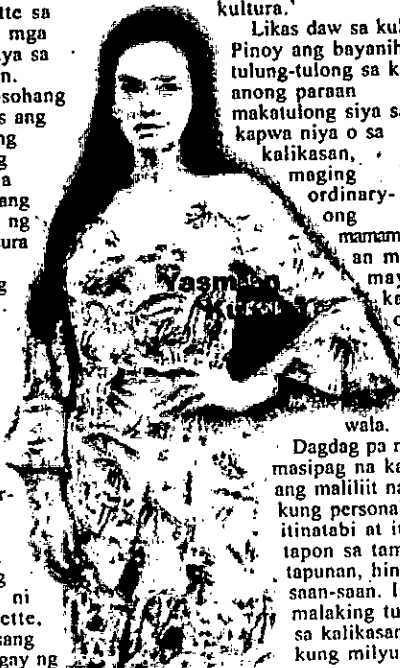
Kaya masayang nasabi ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda na kinaugalak nila ang aksyon ni Antoinette, ang kusang pagbibigay ng

kampanya na ito ng gobyerno.

Para pa kay Usec. Antiporda, ang Manila Bay Clean-Up o #Save Manila Bay ay isang paglilinis hindi lang ng naturang look kundi isang paraan din ito na masimulan ang paglilinis sa ating 'nadumihang kultura.'

Likas daw sa kulturang Pinoy ang bayanihan o tulung-tulong sa kahit anong paraan makatulong siya sa kapwa niya o sa kalikasan,

maging ordinaryong mamamayan man, may kaya o



wala. Dagdag pa ng masipag na kalihim, ang maliliit na basura kung personal na ring itinatabi at itinatapon sa tamang tapunan, hindi kung saan-saan. Isang malaking tulong na sa kalikasan dahil kung milyun-



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Balita

ANG NANGUNONG PAHAYAGANG TAGAL OG SA BANGA

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'DI EPEKTIBO SA PUWESTO?

DENR official sa Quezon, pinaimbestigahan

Humirit ng imbestigasyon si Minority Leader at Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez laban sa Officer-in-Charge (OIC) ng Department of Environment and Resources (DENR) sa Quezon dahil hindi umano ito epektibo sa kanyang posisyon.

Partikular na ipinaimbestiga sa Kongreso si Joselito Donato Barros, OIC ng DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) sa Catanauan, Quezon.

"It has come upon the attention of this office that Mr. Joselito Donato Barros, Officer-in-Charge of the CENRO of the DENR in Catanauan, Quezon province committed gross inefficiency in the conduct of his official functions," paliwanag ng kongresista kasabay ng paghahain nito ng House Resolution 2455.

Binanggit nito, sumulat na siya sa DENR nitong Oktubre 24, 2018 at humiling ito ng pagpupulong kaugnay ng usapin.

"The DENR office noted the request and forwarded the concern to their Review Committee for evaluation through a letter dated 06 November 2018," aniya.

Aniya, kabilang sa responsibilidad ng CENRO na magpatupad ng mga programa, proyekto at polisiya ng DENR sa community level.

"Erring and non-performing government officials, in line with the principle of public accountability, must be investigated so that proper penalties may be imposed once found guilty of offenses," paliwanag ni Suarez.

Hindi aniya dapat palagpasin ng House Committee on Public Accounts ang usapin.

"It has been established principle embodied in the 1987 Constitution that public office is a public trust. According to Article XI Section 1 of our fundamental law, public officers and employees, must, at all times, be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty and efficiency; act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives," pahabol pa ng mambabatas.

Charissa M. Luci-Atienza



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Tauhan ng DENR itinumba

PATAY ang isang kawani ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Tacurong City matapos pagbabarilin ng mga hindi pa kilalang suspek habang nasa karinderya sa nasabing lungsod.

Kinilala ang biktima ng DENR chief forester Kandatu Bansil Sr., nangunguna sa enforcement section ng community environment and natural resources office sa Tacurong at residente ng Prk. Nam-

nama, Barangay Poblacion Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat.

Batay sa report ng pulisya, nakaupo sa kanilang karinderya ang biktima nang dumating ang mga armadong suspek at pinagbabaril si Bansil saka mabilis na tumakas sakay ng motorsiklo.

Nabatid na matagal nang nakatatanggap ng death threat ang biktima lalo na mula sa mga ilegal loggers ngunit binalewala lamang niya.

MARY ANNE SAPICO



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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CHIEF FORESTER NG DENR INAMBUS

KORONADAL CITY – ISANG chief forester ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng Tacurong City ang pinatay ng mga 'di pa nakilalang gunmen.

Kinilala ang pinatay na si Chief Forester Kandatu Bansil Sr., na namumuno sa Enforcement Section ng Community Environment and Natural Resources Office sa Lungsod ng Tacurong, kung saan pinagbabaril ito ng pinaniniwalaang riding-in-tandem sa kanilang karinderya sa Prk. Namnama, Barangay Poblacion Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat.

: Nagtamo ito ng mga tama ng bala sa kaniyang dibdib at ilang bahagi ng katawan na nagresulta sa agaran nitong pagkamatay.

: Nabatid naman sa isang katrabaho ni Bansil, matagal ng may death threat ang biktima lalo na mula sa mga illegal logger ngunit binalewala lamang nito.

PILIPINO Mirror Reportorial Team



Kawani ng DENR, pinatay habang nagluluto

CENTRAL MINDANAO - Tukoy na ng mga otoridad ang mga suspck na namaril patay sa isang kawani ng DENR at negosyante sa probinsya ng Sultan Kudarat.

Nakilala ang biktima na si Kandatu Ali Bansil, 52, may asawa, at residente ng Purok Nammama Brgy. Poblacion Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat.

Sa ulat, habang nagluluto ang biktima sa loob ng pagmamay-ari nitong Nimfas Eatery, biglang nilapitan ng dalawang hindi kilalang suspck at pinagbabaril gamit ang kalibre.45 na pistola.

Mabilis namang tumakas ang mga namaril lulan sa isang motorsiklo patungo sa liblib na lugar sa bayan ng Lambayong.

Sa ngayon, nagpapatuloy ang imbestigasyon ng mga otoridad sa pamamaslang sa biktima.



Founded 1858

The Manila Times

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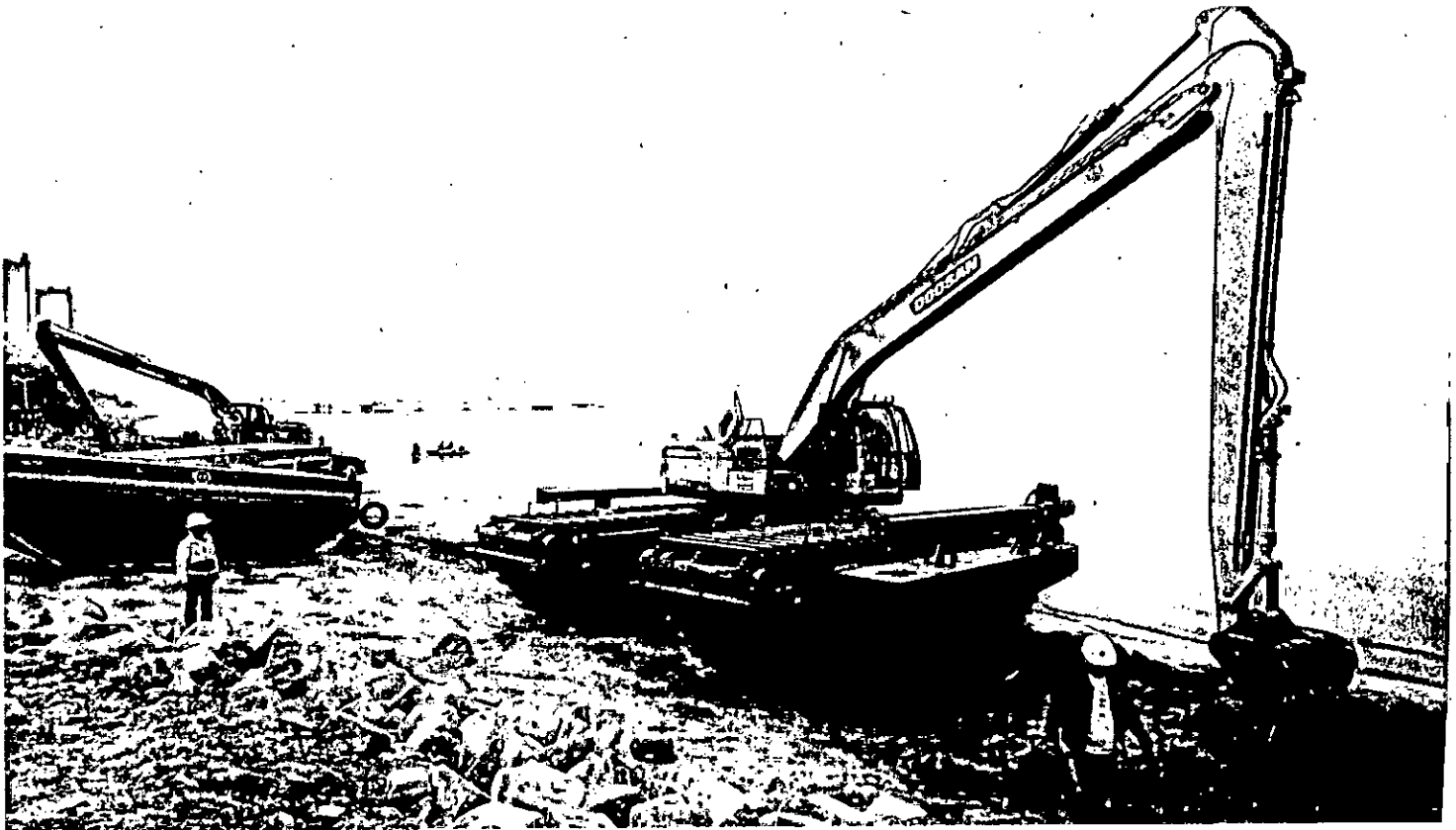
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DREDGING THE BAY Personnel of the Department of Public Works and Highways hold a dredging dry run as the rehabilitation of Manila Bay continues. PHOTO BY DJ DIOSINA



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Government workers use amphibious excavators to remove waste from the bottom of Manila Bay during the dry run of the dredging activity yesterday. The collected waste will be brought to the sanitary landfill after being dried for at least a day, officials said.

KJ ROSALES



Tortoise feared extinct found on remote Galapagos island



A *CHELONOIDIS phantasticus* tortoise at the Galapagos National Park in Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, is shown on February 20. Park rangers and the Galapagos Conservancy found the tortoise, a species that was thought to have become extinct 100 years ago. GALAPAGOS NATIONAL PARK VIA AP

LIMA, Peru—A living member of species of tortoise not seen in more than 110 years and feared to be extinct has been found in a remote part of the Galapagos island of Fernandina.

An adult female *Chelonoidis phantasticus*, also known as the Fernandina Giant Tortoise, was spotted last week by a joint expedition of the Galapagos National Park and the US-based Galapagos Conservancy, Ecuador's Environment Ministry said in a statement.

Investigators think there may be more members of the species on the island because of tracks and scat they found.

The team took the tortoise, likely more than 100 years old, to a breeding center for giant tortoises on Santa Cruz Island where it will stay in a specially designed pen.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature has the Fernandina Giant Tortoise listed as critically endangered and possibly extinct.

The only other living member of the species was found in 1906, the group said. Since then, expeditions have encountered tortoise scat and bite marks on cacti, and there was a possible unconfirmed sighting in 2009.

But the discovery

was the first confirmed sighting and together with the possibility of finding more members of the species has raised the possibility of breeding.

"They will need more than one, but females may store sperm for a long time," said Stuart Pimm, a professor of conservation ecology at Duke University. "There may be hope."

Fernandina is the third largest Galapagos island and features the La Cumbre volcano, one of the most active in the world. The archipelago lies in the Pacific Ocean about 1,000 kilometers off Ecuador's mainland.

In listing the Fernandina tortoise as possibly extinct, the conservation group said on its web site that the species may have succumbed to "the frequent volcanic lava flows that nearly cover the island."

The Galapagos archipelago hosts unique species and wildlife whose characteristics helped Charles Darwin develop his theory of evolution. It was declared a United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage site in 1979.

The Environment Ministry said the expedition was financed by Animal Planet for its series "Extinct or Alive." AP



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Came back from extinction

A specimen of the giant Galapagos tortoise *Chelonoidis phantasticus*, thought to have gone extinct about a century ago, is seen at the Galapagos National Park on Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos Archipelago, in the Pacific Ocean 1,000 kms off the coast of Ecuador. **AP**





Human-caused climate change causes first extinction of a mammal

CLIMATE change officially killed off its first mammalian species earlier this week, when Australia's environment minister moved a small coast-dwelling rodent from the endangered to the extinct list.

The Bramble Cay melomys, or Bramble Cay mosaic-tailed rat, made its home on an island in the Torres Strait between Australia and Papua New Guinea. Both sea levels and water temperatures in the region are rising faster than many species are comfortable with.

Extinction is a process, rather than a singular event. It takes time for science to demonstrate that something that was once there no longer exists.

The Bramble Cay melomys was first declared endangered by Queensland in 1992 and by the Commonwealth in 1999. The state determined



the rodent was extinct in 2016 and further investigation led the Commonwealth on Monday to agree:

In its finding three years ago, University of Queensland researchers and the state government concluded that human-induced climate change was "the root cause of the loss

of the Bramble Cay melomys."

The Torres Strait is an area of concern among residents, researchers and the governments of both Queensland and the Australia.

In its most recent comprehensive assessment of global threats, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change included a passage

about indigenous people who live in the area and face "disproportionate climate change vulnerability" that includes heat stress, exposure to extreme weather events, increased disease and subsequent economic impacts.

Extinction is an extreme and rare impact, but Australians are coping with the effects of climate change daily. Warmer waters have caused widespread losses in the Great Barrier Reef, which an April 2018 study in the journal *Nature* called "a harbinger of further radical shifts in the condition and dynamics of all ecosystems."

January was the country's hottest month on record, exposing Australians to "a series of heat waves unprecedented in their scale and duration," according to the Bureau of Meteorology. **Bloomberg News**