

04 MAR 2019

DATE : _____

Monday

DAY : _____

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

PAGE
UPPER

LOWER
PAGE 1
STORY
BANNER
STORY
EDITORIAL
CARTOON

04 MAR 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Cimatu places DENR offices nationwide on alert for forest fires

By **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

Secretary Roy Cimatu has placed all regional offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on alert for forest fires. Executive directors of 16 DENR

regional offices were directed to make a region-wide assessment and updating of their respective forest protection plans in anticipation of an El Niño-induced drought, which could increase the risk of wild fires. "Our teams should always

▶9

Cimatu places DENR... ◀1

be ready for deployment to suppress incidents of outbreaks, particularly grassfires, to prevent them from crossing over to forested areas and turn into full-blown forest fires," Cimatu said.

The DENR chief directed his field officials to give priority to vulnerable sites inside protected areas and those that have been rehabilitated under the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP).

Fire brigades in ENGP sites are to be fully optimized using the manpower pool of 3,350 regular forest guards with the help of emergency workers hired under the program, Cimatu said.

Last year, DENR upgraded its forest fire fighting capabilities with the acquisition of more firefighting equipment and tools, such as fuel-powered grass cutter, collapsible fire pump, fire swatters, pick and scrape shovels, axes, rake hoes, fire helmets, heat resistant goggles, brush masks, and thermal working gloves.

The equipment and tools were distributed to 74 Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices and 140 Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices nationwide.

Cimatu has issued an administrative order on the adoption of a national strategy for forest and biodiversity protection using a digital technology-based forest monitoring system called "Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System."

Under the Lawin system, forest areas at risk of threats such as forest fires, timber and wildlife poaching and illegal occupancy, are mapped and profiled.

Part of its surveillance activity is to seek out for "triggers" for forest fires, which include fuel wood gathering, kaingin-making, charcoal-making, honey collection, camping and recreation, pasture preparation, and hunting.

Close to 5,000 Lawin patrollers covered some 124,000 kilometers of forest lines in their foot patrolling in 2018.

Last February 20, a forest fire razed about 125 hectares of sloping forestland being rehabilitated by the Philex Mining Company in Itogon, Benguet since 2014.

Five Philex forestry workers perished in the 21-hour forest fire.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

04 MAR 2019

DATE

Wild fires set off DENR alarm bells

Cimatu alerts fieldmen amid El Nino onset

By Rio N. Araja

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu on Sunday placed all field offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on alert for forest fires as the country braces for the impact of an El Niño episode.

He also ordered the executive directors of 16 regional offices to conduct a region-wide assessment and update of their forest protection plans in anticipation of an El Niño-induced drought, which could increase the risk of wild fires.

"Our teams should always be ready for deployment to suppress incidents of outbreaks, particularly grassfires, to prevent them from crossing over to forested areas and turn into full-blown forest fires," he said.

Field officials have been ordered to give priority to vulnerable sites inside protected areas and those that have been rehabilitated under the enhanced national greening program. **Next page**



WILD FIRES. An unseen Air Force Tactical Group jet hovers over Benguet's Padcal Mountain Range on an assessment mission over the weekend. Forest fires of undetermined origin hit the Cordillera region in the past three weeks. A raging forest fire took the lives of three forest guards in Benguet last week. **Dave Leprozo**

Wild fires...

From A1

Provincial and city environment and natural resources officers, meanwhile, are to step up their information campaign and coordinate with local government officials down to the barangay level to heighten community awareness and vigilance on preventing or fighting forest fires.

On Feb. 20, a forest fire razed around 125 hectares of sloping forestland being rehabilitated by the Philex Mining Co. in Itogon, Benguet.

At least five Philex forestry workers perished in the 21-hour forest fire.

Also on Sunday, Leyte Rep. Yedda Marie Romualdez urged government agencies to map out plans to mitigate El Niño's impact on agriculture and power.

She cited the need to consider loans to the affected farmers, even as she expressed alarm over the possible energy shortage once water supply in major dams in Luzon, particularly Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan, drops due to reduced rainfall.



DENR offices on alert for forest fires

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu has placed all 16 regional offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on alert for forest fires as the country braces for the impact of El Niño phenomenon.

"Our teams should always be ready for deployment to suppress incidents of outbreaks, particularly grassfires, to prevent them from crossing over to forested areas and turn into full-blown forest fires," he said.

The Philippine Atmospheric,

Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) officially announced the setting in of El Niño on February 20.

PAGASA said 22 provinces, mostly in Luzon, will experience "way below normal" rainfall condition this month and 63 provinces will have "below normal" rainfall in April. In May, at least 40 provinces, mostly in the Visayas, are forecast to also have "below normal" rainfall, while 31 provinces are expected in June.

Cimatu said he has also directed field officials to give priority to vulnerable sites inside protected areas and those that have been rehabilitated under the Enhanced National Greening Program, and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau to closely monitor compliance of mining companies with their approved environmental protection and enhancement program, which includes the conduct of forest fire prevention measures. — *Angela Lopez de Leon*



DENR on alert for forest fires

By Cory Martinez

ALL regional offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are now on alert for forest fires as the country braces for the impact of the El Niño phenomenon.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu directed the executive directors of 16 DENR regional offices to conduct a regionwide assessment and updating of their respective forest protection plans in anticipation of an El Niño-induced drought, which could increase the risk of wild fires.

"Our teams should always be ready for deployment to suppress incidents of outbreaks, particularly grassfires, to prevent them from crossing over to forested areas and turning into full-blown forest fires," Cimatu said.

Cimatu told his field officials to give priority to vulnerable sites inside protected areas and those that have been rehabilitated under the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP).

Fire brigades in ENGP sites, he said, are to be fully optimized using the manpower pool of 3,350 regular forest guards with the help of emergency workers hired under the program.

Last year, the DENR upgraded its forest fire fighting capabilities with the acquisition of more fire fighting equipment and tools, such as fuel-powered grass cutter, collapsible fire pump, fire swatters, pick and scrape shovels, axes, rake hoes, fire helmets, heat resistant goggles, brush masks, and thermal working gloves.

The equipment and tools were distributed to 74 Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENROs) and 140 Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENROs) nationwide.

This was followed by Cimatu's administrative order on the adoption of a national strategy for forest and biodiversity protection using a digital technology-based forest monitoring system called "Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System."

Under the Lawin system, forest areas at risk of threats such as forest fires, timber and wildlife poaching and illegal occupancy, are mapped and profiled.

Part of its surveillance activities is to seek out "triggers" for forest fires, which include fuel wood gathering, kaingin-making, charcoal-making, honey collection, camping and recreation, pasture preparation, and hunting.

Close to 5,000 Lawin patrollers covered some 124,000 kilometers of forest lines in patrols in 2018.



DENR, nakaalerto sa forest fire

Nakaalerto ngayon ang lahat ng regional office ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa posibilidad ng forest fires sa inaasahang El Niño.

Binigyan ng direktiba ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ang mga direktor ng 16 na DENR regional offices na magsagawa ng region-wide assessment at updating sa kani-kanilang forest protection plan bilang paghahanda sa pananalasa ng mahabang tagtuyot o El Niño, na maaaring magpataas sa posibilidad ng pagsiklab ng wild fire.

"Our teams should always be ready for deployment to suppress incidents of outbreaks, particularly grassfires, to prevent them from crossing over to forested areas and turn into full-blown forest fires," ani Cimatu.

Pinatututukan ng DENR chief ang mga vulnerable site sa mga protektadong lugar at ang mga lugar na sumailalim sa rehabilitasyon ng Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP).

Noong nakaraang taon, nag-upgrade na ang DENR sa kakayahan nito sa pagresponde sa forest fire

sa pamamagitan ng pagbili ng mas maraming fighting equipment, tulad ng mga fuel-powered grass cutter, collapsible fire pump, fire swatters, rake hoes, fire helmets, heat-resistant goggles, at iba pa.

Naglabas na rin si Cimatu ng administrative order para sa pagpapatupad ng national strategy for forest and biodiversity protection, gamit ang digital technology-based forest monitoring system na "Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System."

Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

04 MAR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

EL NINO'S COMING

Gov't urged to map out plans to ease hot weather onslaught

By Ryan Ponce Pacpaco

WITH the oncoming El Niño presaging a hotter dry season, Tingog Sinirangan party-list first nominee Yedda Marie Kittilstvedt-Romualdez yesterday appealed to the agencies concerned to map out plans aimed at mitigating its impact and damage to agriculture and the power sectors.

Romualdez, congresswoman of the First District of Leyte, underscored the need to study the possibility of extending loans to the troubled farmers as immediate "malasakit" (compassion) to their plight.

Late last month, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) had warned residents of Luzon, including Metro Manila, about possible El Niño effects.

PAGASA said its alert system is now in the "El Niño Advisory" category, which is one step closer to declaring a full-blown El Niño phenomenon.

She also underscored the need to look into possible energy shortage, especially if there will be a significant drop in the water supply in major dams in Luzon, including Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

"The national government and LGUs (local govern-

ment units) should assist farmers not only with food supplies but also with loans to tide them over while the drought has yet to abate, apart from possible cloud seeding operations in affected areas. We should also ensure enough power supply," said Romualdez.

At the same time, Romualdez, chairperson of the House Committee on Accounts, urged the concerned officials to determine if there is a need for possible cloud seeding operations in places affected by the El Niño phenomenon.

The Leyte congresswoman said the national and local governments should work double time and unite to mitigate the impact of El Niño and damage to the agriculture sector.

Romualdez is the wife of former House Independent Bloc Leader and ex-Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez, president of both the Philippine Constitution Association (Philconsa) and Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (CMD), who is running for representative of Leyte congressional district.

Cloud seeding operations are being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau on Soil and Water Management (BSWM).

Billions of pesos worth of crops were damaged by the prolonged dry spell in the previous years.



Pabagu-bagong klima pa rin

MARAMI nang pananim sa mga bukirin at taniman ang naninilaw. Makikita agad ang pagkalanta ng mga dahon ng mga tanim pagkain man o ornamental. Kalagitnaan pa lang ng Pebrero ay pumasok na ang init mula umaga hanggang ikatlo ng hapon.

"Ika nga'y pasingit-singit o nagsisingitan ang init at ang lamig ng Amihan na hanggang ngayon ay narito pa. Ang lamig ay sa madaling araw "sumasalakay."

Ang resulta, marami na naman ang nagkakasakit ngayon ng trangkaso, ubo at sipon bukod sa palagiang dengue at ang malalang krisis sa tigdas.

Kawawa ang mga magsasakang natuyuan ng mga tanim ngayon na maagang tinamaan ng tagtuyot, tag-init.

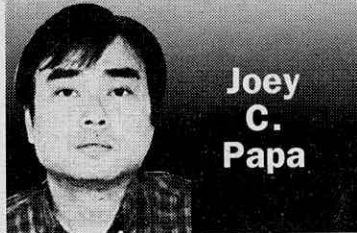
Taon-taon ay tumataas ang level ng pag-init dahil sa global warming. Ngayong taon, sinabi ng isang meteorologist, higit na magiging matindi ang init ng ating klima.

Kawawang magsasaka, tinamaan na ng boldyak ng Rice Tarrification Law, tatamaan pa ng higit na matinding init sa taong ito.

Kahit ang mumunti kong pananim na sili, kalamansi, papaya at iba pa ay mabilis manilaw ang mga dahon kaya kailangang magdilig nang dalawang ulit sa isang araw. Natural na rasyon ang tubig upang hindi ito masayang.

Ang kapitbahay ko tinakpan na ng

BANGON KALIKASAN



Joey
C.
Papa

telang bubong ang kanyang dayap at kalamansi. Araw-araw din siyang nagdidilig. Lahat halos ng mga kapitbahay ko na may mga tanim ay palagian na ang pagdidilig.

Sa madaling araw naman ay kailangan pa ring magkumot dahil "sumasalakay" ang lamig ng panahon. Sa gabi ay mainit na nakababalam naman ng pagtulog.

Ag nakaaaawa ay ang mga sanggol na sa tuwing maiinitan ay magiging at iiyak. Gayundin naman ang mga matatanda. Ngunit nagagawan ng dahilan sa sarili ng matatanda ang nangyayaring climate change o pabago-bagong klima ngunit ang mga sanggol ay hindi.

Isang kaibigan kong magsasaka ang dumaing kailan lang na napakahirap na ngayon na maging magbubukid. Lagi silang biktima ng anumang masamang panahon. Maganda ang panahon, biglang magkakaroon ng habagat

at lanos ang kanyang tanim na palay. Dumapa 'ika niya ang mga tanim. Ngayon ay kailangang lagi ring diligan ang marami niyang tanim kasama ang palay.

Habang dumadaing ng tagtuyotang mga magbubukid sa kapatagan, andap (frost) naman ang dinaranas ng mga taga-Benguet. Malamig na klima ang bumibiktima sa kanila. Nasisira rin ang kanilang pananim. Tinamaan na talaga maging ang kabuhayan ng mga Pilipino. Kalusugan at kabuhayan ng mga Pilipino ang pangunahing biktima ng global warming at climate change.

Kailangan talagang seryosong bigyan na ng pansin ang global warming at climate change. Maraming nilalabag na environmental laws sa ating bayan na nagpapalala ng pag-init ng mundo na nagdudulot ng pabago-bagong klima.

Kasama ang mga sakit sa paglala ng global warming at climate change. Sinasabi ngang hindi ka Pilipino kung wala kang sipon o allergy. Napakarumi ng ating kapaligiran bukod pa mainit, malamig na panahon. Ang hirap ng huminga sa Metro Manila at mga kalapit lalawigan. Kahit nga ang mga malalayong lalawigan sa Visayas at Mindanao ay nagdurusa na sa usok-lason polusyon.

Kailangang lahat tayo ay kumilos na nang mapabagal ang pinsala ng painit-na painit na mundo at pabago-bagong klima.

(bangonkalikasan@yahoo.com)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1

STORY



BANNER

STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

04 MAR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

5-M KILO NG BASURA NAKUHA SA MANILA BAY

UMAABOT na sa halos limang milyong kilo ng basura ang nakuha sa pag-sisimula ng rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay nitong Enero 27.

Sinabi ni Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año na bagama't mas

malinis na ang dagat ngayon, hindi pa rin ito ligtas para languyan ng mga mamamayan na sabik lumusok sa look.

Dapat munang maisara ang mga kompanya na nagtatapon ng dumi sa mga kanal na dumidiretso sa Manila Bay, dagdag ni Año.

Sinisimulan na rin ang

proseso para mailpat ang mga informal settler sa paligid ng Manila Bay na itinuturong may malaking ambag sa mga basura.

Matatandaang ipinagutos na rin ng DILG sa 178 lokal na pamahalaan na tumulong sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. **NENET V.**



Limang milyon kilong basura

PUSPUSAN at seryoso ang isinasagawang paglilinis ng gobyerno sa Manila Bay sa pagtutulongan ng dalawang lead agencies gaya ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Department of Local Governments (DILG).

Grabe ang sitwasyon ng karagatan. Mantakin niyong nasa limang milyong kilo na ng basura ang nahahango sa isinasagawang operasyon upang linisin ang Manila Bay?

Sa volume ng basurang nahango mula sa dagat, marami pa ang hindi nakukolekta, at kahit tuluy-tuloy ang gagawing

cleaning operation sa karagatan, hindi malulutas ang problema hangga't nariryan ang mga salahulang nagpaparumi rito.

Hindi natin sisisihin ang mga informal settlers na nagtayo ng mga barung-barong sa mga dalampasigan o kahit na ang mga kompanyang walang habas na nagtatapon ng kanilang basura sa dagat bagamat may pananagutan sila.

Ang nangungunang culprit sa problema ay ang nakalipas na kapabayaang pamahalaan na gumawa ng programa upang maregulate ang pagpasok ng mga squatters sa mga lugar sa dalampasigan at ang pagtatayo ng mga pabrika sa naturang lugar.

Pera-pera ang dahilan bukod pa sa tinatawag na political reason. Pinababayaan ng mga lokal na pamahalaan ang mga squatters dahil ang presensya nila ay katumbas ng boto pagdating ng halalan. Pinabayaan din ang mga kompanya sa mga lugar malapit sa dalampasigan dahil sa "magkanong dahilan." Sa maigsing paliwanag, corruption ang "nanay" ng problema ng ito na malalim na ang ugat.

Ngunit sabi nga ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda, natuldukan na ito at ngayo'y determinado ang pamahalaang Duterte na magpatupad ng reporma kahit sino ang masaktan. Iyan ang tinatawag na political will.



Reclamation dev't plans to be drafted in April

THE PHILIPPINE Reclamation Authority (PRA) said it hopes to start drafting regional and national reclamation development plans (RDPs) by April, in compliance with the President's order to more closely supervise reclamation projects.

"We can start with coordination meetings with DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), NEDA (National Economic and Development Authority), regional and local offices and LGUs (local government units)

concerned in coming up with the RDPs. We might start by April," PRA Assistant Manager Joseph John M. Literal said during the public consultation for the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of Executive Order 74 in Pasay City on Feb. 28.

As per Section 7 of EO 74, "all proposals for reclamation projects covered by this order must be compliant with these RDPs and relevant master plans of the concerned national government agency."

RDPs seek to consider the "environmental, social, and economic impacts of proposed reclamation projects" before they are approved.

PRA General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Janilo E. Rubiato noted that RDPs will only cover the proposals that come after its issuance.

"It would not be fair to earlier proponents, to make them comply with new requirements that will change everything. We will find a way to accommodate them," Mr.

Rubiato told *BusinessWorld* after the public consultation.

Mr. Rubiato said the PRA is seeking to find a solutions that will also include current proposals as well, as some proponents have already processed their environmental clearance certificates (ECC) at the time of the release of EO 74.

"Part of the strategy is to have a cut off for which projects are okay even without the RDP, and the coverage of the RDPs. Once the RDP is in force, any proponents

submitting is plans to an LGU has to be compliant," Mr. Rubiato said.

Mr. Rubiato added there is no timeline for completing the RDPs, which could require a roadshow and consultations in the regions to ensure the drafting of "a very good RDP"

The PRA will release the IRR for EO 74 on March 6, which will include pre-qualification and notice to proceed requirements, conditions for competition, the revenue sharing scheme, schedule of fees, and its applicability.

EO 74 transferred direct supervision of all reclamation projects to the Office of the President from NEDA. Prior to NEDA, the power to approve reclamation projects was under the authority of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The stricter regulations follow a rush of proposals to reclaim land along Manila Bay. There are currently 22 reclamation projects pending with the PRA, covering about 11% of the bay's 1,994-square kilometer area. — **Arra B. Francia**



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

8
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

2/rogers

04 MAR 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Page 1
1/2





Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1800

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

8
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 MAR 2019

DATE

Rehabilitation or reclamation for Manila Bay?

EVEN as the government moves to clean up heavily polluted and garbage-filled Manila Bay, there are plans being pursued by some sectors to reclaim a big part of the bay to create new land for development.

There are 22 planned projects all over Manila Bay, of which three are reported nearing approval. If approved, the 22 projects will cover about 22,000 hectares or about 11 percent of Manila Bay's current area of 1,994 square kilometers. The three projects reported approved in principle by the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) are a 148-hectare Solar City Urban Center in Manila, a 360-hectare project in Pasay, and a 650-hectare Navotas Boulevard Business Park.

At a recent hearing held by the House Committee on Metro Manila Development, a PRA official was asked about possible adverse effects of reclamation by Rep. Lito Atienza, former Manila mayor. There is bound to be "an effect" but "systems" are in place to reduce the environmental impact of the projects, the official said. To which the congressman replied: "If all these projects are allowed to proceed, the effects will be catastrophic for all of us."

Last February 4, President Duterte signed Executive Order No. 74 providing that while the PRA has the authority to approve all reclamation projects in the country, it is now under the Office of the President, instead of the Department of En-

vironment and Natural Resources. The President himself will now have the final say on reclamation projects in Manila Bay and elsewhere.

The issuance of the executive order signals a stop to the seeming rush of so many reclamation projects following the evident success of the original reclamation carried out several administrations ago, which created the land on which now stand the newest structures and establishments in Manila, Pasay, and Parañaque City.

Unfortunately for them, however, these projects, which promise considerable profit for the city governments and business enterprises involved, are now caught in the middle of a massive program to clean up Manila Bay after decades of neglect. It will take many more than seven years, the original estimate of the DENR, to stop the pollution of Manila Bay by the untreated sewage pouring out of Metro Manila and the surrounding provinces into streams and rivers all ending in the bay.

Can rehabilitation and reclamation take place at the same time in Manila Bay? Or must one be postponed for the other? Between rehabilitation and the reclamation, many officials undoubtedly prefer the latter. But with Executive Order No. 74, President Duterte has assumed final responsibility for what happens next in Manila Bay.

We have confidence in his judgment in this critical matter of rehabilitation and reclamation of the bay.

Page 2

2/2



EDITORIAL

Rehabilitation or reclamation for Manila Bay?

EVEN as the government moves to clean up heavily polluted and garbage-filled Manila Bay, there are plans being pursued by some sectors to reclaim a big part of the bay to create new land for development.

There are 22 planned projects all over Manila Bay, of which three are reported nearing approval. If approved, the 22 projects will cover about 22,000 hectares or about 11 percent of Manila Bay's current area of 1,994 square kilometers. The three projects reported approved in principle by the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) are a 148-hectare Solar City Urban Center in Manila, a 360-hectare project in Pasay, and a 650-hectare Navotas Boulevard Business Park.

At a recent hearing held by the House Committee on Metro Manila Development, a PRA official was asked about possible adverse effects of reclamation by Rep. Lito Atienza, former Manila mayor. There is bound to be "an effect" but "systems" are in place to reduce the environmental impact of the projects, the official said. To which the congressman replied: "If all these projects are allowed to proceed, the effects will be catastrophic for all of us."

Last February 4, President Duterte signed Executive Order No. 74 providing that while the PRA has the authority to approve all reclamation projects in the country, it is now under the Office of the President, instead of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The President himself will now have the final say on reclamation projects in Manila Bay and elsewhere.

The issuance of the executive order signals a stop to the seeming rush of so many reclamation projects following the evident success of the original reclamation carried out several administrations ago, which created the land on which now stand the newest structures and establishments in Manila, Pasay, and Paranaque City.

Unfortunately for them, however, these projects, which promise considerable profit for the city governments and business enterprises involved, are now caught in the middle of a massive program to clean up Manila Bay after decades of neglect. It will take many more than seven years, the original estimate of the DENR, to stop the pollution of Manila Bay by the untreated sewage pouring out of Metro Manila and the surround provinces into streams and rivers all ending in the bay.

Can rehabilitation and reclamation take place at the same time in Manila Bay? Or must one be postponed for the other? Between rehabilitation and the reclamation, many officials undoubtedly prefer the latter. But with Executive Order No. 74, President Duterte has assumed final responsibility for what happens next in Manila Bay.

We have confidence in his judgment in this critical matter of rehabilitation and reclamation of the bay.



EDITORIAL

Rehabilitasyon o reklamasyon para sa Manila Bay?

BAGAMAT kumilos na ang pamahalaan para linisin ang puno ng polusyon at basura na Manila Bay, may mga plano na isinusulong ang ilang sektor para gamitin ang malaking bahagi ng look sa pagbuo ng bagong lupain para sa pagpapaunlad.

Mayroong 22 planong proyekto sa buong bahagi ng Manila Bay, kung saan tatlo dito ang nalalalapat nang aprubahan. Sakaling pumasa, sasakupin ng 22 proyekto ang nasa 22,000 ektarya o nasa 11 porsiyento ng kasalukuyang sukat ng Manila Bay na 1,994 kilometro kuwadrado. Napaulat na kabilang sa tatlong proyekto na inaprubahan, base sa panuntunan ng Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), ay ang 148-ektaryang Solar City Urban Center sa Maynila, ang 360-ektaryang proyekto sa lungsod ng Pasay, at ang 650-ektaryang Navotas Boulevard Business Park.

Sa pagdinig kamakailan ng House Committee on Metro Manila Development, kinuwestiyon ni Rep. Lito Atienza, dating Mayor ng Maynila, ang isang opisyal ng PRA hinggil sa posibleng masamang o negatibong epekto ng reklamasyon. Tiyak na magkakaroon ng "effect" ngunit ang "systems" ay ipatutupad upang mabawasan ang epekto ng mga proyekto sa kalikasan, ayon sa opisyal. Na sinagot ng kongresista ng: "If all these projects are allowed to proceed, the effects will be the catastrophic for all of us."

Nitong nakaraang Pebrero 4, nilagdaan ni Pangulong Duterte ang Executive Order No. 74, na nagsasaad na bagamat nasa PRA ang awtoridad para sa pag-aaprubang lahat ng mga reclamation projects sa bansa, nasa ilalim na ito ngayon ng Office of the President, sa halip na sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Nakasalalay ngayon sa Pangulo kung ano ang magiging kapalaran ng mga reclamation projects sa Manila Bay at sa iba pang lugar.

Ang pagpapalabas ng isang ehekutibong kautusan ay nagbibigay ng senyales para ihinto ang tila minamadaling maraming proyekto makalipas ang malinaw na tagumpay ng orihinal na reklamasyon na ipinatupad ng administrasyon noon, na lumikha sa lupain na ngayo'y kinatatayuan ng mga pinakabagong istruktura at establisyemento sa mga lungsod ng Maynila, Pasay at Parañaque.

Gayunman, sa kasamaang palad para sa kanila, ang mga proyektong ito, na nangangako ng malaking tubo para sa lokal na pamahalaan at mga negosyo sangkot, ay naiipit sa gitna ng malawakang programa para linisin ang Manila Bay makalipas ang ilang dekadang pagbalewala rito. Gugugol ito ng mahigit pitong taon, ang orihinal na tantsa ng DENR, upang matigil ang polusyon ng Manila Bay ng mga maduduming tubig at dumi na ibinubuga ng Metro Manila at mga palibot nitong probinsiya sa mga sapa, estero at ilog na napupunta sa look.

Kaya bang pagsabayin ang rehabilitasyon at reklamasyon sa Manila Bay? O dapat na ipagpaliban muna ang isa para sa isa? Sa pagitan ng rehabilitasyon at reklamasyon, walang dudang mas pabor ang maraming opisyal sa huli. Ngunit sa Executive Order No. 74, nasa kamay ni Pangulong Duterte ang pinal na responsibilidad para sa kahihinatnan ng Manila Bay.

Kumpiyansa tayo sa kanyang pagtataya sa kritikal na bagay na ito sa pagitan ng rehabilitasyon at reklamasyon ng Manila Bay.



04 MAR 2019

TITLE :

PAGE /

DATE

AS A MATTER OF FACT

SARA SOLIVEN DE GUZMAN

The Manila Bay challenge

My friend Rick Ramos, convenor of the group Manila Bay Initiative called my attention with regard to my column last Monday, February 25, 2019, "The Manila Bay Crisis." He said that their proposal was not for a Manila Bay Development Authority, but for a Manila Bay Authority that will take care of the rehabilitation of Manila Bay which will take 10 years and cost about P500 billion. I stand corrected. I was also told to refrain from using the word "development" because there is nothing to develop. He added that even the MMDA is a misnomer for there is nothing to develop in Metro Manila. The function of the agency is basically on traffic enforcement, flood control and solid waste. But as we all know by now, the MMDA has been a dismal failure in the past 25 years since its creation. Anyway, that is another story.



Ramos added that the so-called "Battle for Manila Bay" is doomed to fail for the simple reason that there is no strategic plan to follow. DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu has not even mentioned the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan. This plan is being done with the Netherlands government and consultants that started last year. It seems that Cimatu does not know about this since it is being done through NEDA.

The real problem with the Manila Bay crisis is that there is no strategic plan to follow, thus, everything is done in haste. Even the AO 16 signed last February 19 by President Duterte creating the Manila Bay Task Force did not order the inter-agency body to come up with a Strategic Plan within 90 days in their first quarterly report to the Office of the President. *Sanamagan!*

What is even more alarming is the statement of DENR Secretary early this year, that he will finish the Battle of Manila Bay in a year. He probably thought that if he did it in six months with Boracay, he can do it in 12 months for Manila Bay. *Susmariosep!* Probably Cimatu does not know or maybe he has forgotten that Boracay is an island with an area of 1,032 hectares, while Manila Bay is almost like an enclosed lake with an area of almost 200,000 hectares or three times the size of Singapore or Metro Manila.

The Manila Bay area covers four provinces: Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga and Bataan; five cities of the NCR: Las Pinas, Paranaque, Pasay, Manila and Navotas. Other than the 17 major rivers that drains to the Bay, there are the 18 polluted esteros of Metro Manila that also drain to the Bay. So, without the proper Sewerage Treatment Plants in place, how can we expect to get clean water?

In a research done by Manila Bay Initiative, there were various petitions that were filed by Maynilad Water, Manila Water, and MWSS with the Supreme Court about their failure to comply with the Clean Water Act of 2004 which provides for the installation of a sewerage system with STPs within five years or in 2009. There are allegations that they are asking the Supreme Court to waive the fines that will reach P1.0 Billion.

Today, Maynilad maintains and operates 20 wastewater treatment plants that process wastewater and sludge collected from customers. This is to prevent the pollution of waterways and bodies of water.

It is said that the company's Dagat-Dagatan Sewage and Septage Treatment Plant in Caloocan is the first facility of its kind in the Asia-Pacific Region to attain triple international standard accreditations on Quality Management (ISO 9001:2008) and Environmental Management (ISO 14001:2004) in January 2007, and Occupational Safety and Health Management (OHSAS 18001:2007).

In 2016, Manila Water inaugurated the Marikina North Sewage Treatment Plant, the country's largest sewage treatment plant in Balubad Resettlement, Barangay Nangka, Marikina City.

In 2017, the Taguig North and Marikina North Sewage Treatment Plants were also put up. As of July 31, 2018, Manila Water has installed an aggregate of 135,251 sewer connections within the East Zone since the start of its concession period, serving a total of 186,480 households.

Manila Water currently operates and maintains 38 sewage treatment plants (STP) and two septage treatment plants (SpTP), to ensure that used water collected from its customers is treated and cleaned before being discharged back into Metro Manila's waterways. The discharge from these treatment plants has consistently passed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) effluent quality standards, averaging 99.8% compliance over that past five years as against the required 95% compliance set by the Department. More treatment plants are being constructed and more sewer networks are being laid to further increase sewer coverage within its concession.

A new waste water management facility in Pasay City was also unveiled last year by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS). According to the MWSS, Metro Manila has a total of 58 waste water treatment facilities. However, this covers only 15 percent of Metropolitan Manila. MWSS plans to expand waste water facilities to cover the entire area by 2037.

It is good to know that these government agencies are doing their part in the Manila Bay crisis. If Metro Manila and the surrounding communities are connected to the sewerage system of the MWSS through Maynilad and Manila Water, then relief will come to the residents.

On the other hand, the garbage being thrown to the rivers is "easier" to address with garbage collection and relocation of the informal settlers. The relocation of the more than 200,000 informal settlers (squatters) living along the bay and the rivers flowing into it is very important. So far, there are no concrete plans except of the news of DENR's intention to relocate them and to install temporary STPs. Well, I think, the first thing to do is to provide toilets (WCs) so their waste can flow to the sewer lines and be treated in the STPs.

Apart from the 1,163 soldiers who trooped to the coastal areas of Las Piñas and Parañaque last week to help clean up Manila Bay led by Army Vice Commander Maj. Gen. Rizaldo Limoso and Ignacio Almira, assistant regional director of the DENR, everything is quiet on the Manila Bay challenge. Is the DENR group just resting, hibernating or what have you...or have they finally realized the need for a strategic plan to succeed in the challenge? What's the next step? *Abangan!*



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Manila Standard

24
PAGE

UPP
Lower

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOO

04 MAR 2019

DATE

BAY CLEANUP.

Navotas Mayor John Rey Tiangco, together with 250 personnel of the Bureau of Fire Protection, fire volunteers and city street sweepers, join hands to clean a part of the Manila Bay at Brgy. Bagumbayan North in the city.

Some 21,000 kilos of garbage were collected from the cleanup.

Barangays of Navotas also hold weekly cleanups in support of the bay rehabilitation effort. **Jun David**





Daily Tribune

www.DailyTribune.com



04 MAR 2019

DATE



Clear as day Critics say change under President Rodrigo Duterte is an illusion. Real is this family scene not in far off Boracay but at what is now called Baseco beach in Tondo after a determined drive to rehabilitate Manila Bay and nearby waterways.

BOB DUNGO JR.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



04 MAR 2019
DATE

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____



CHILDREN play despite a ban on swimming on the shoreline of Manila Bay at Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila. (Jansen Romero)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

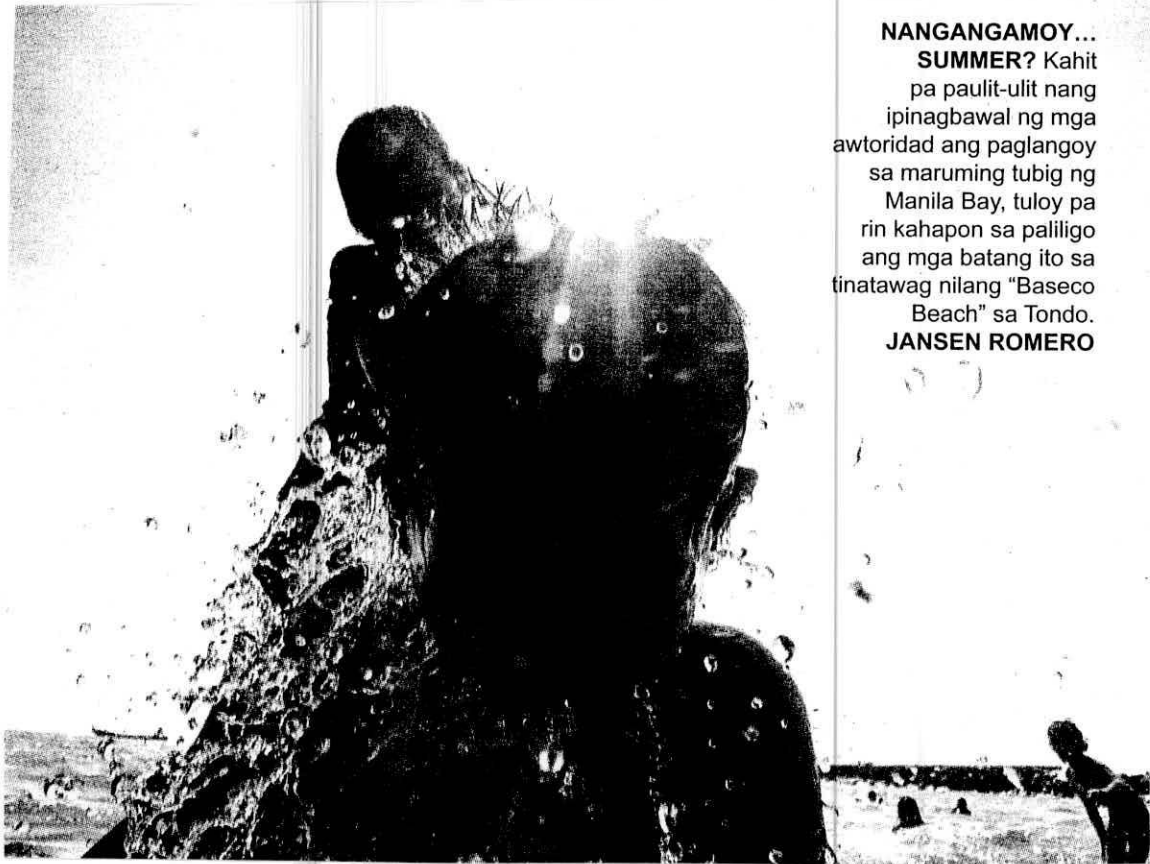
Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGAL OG SA BANGSA



04 MAR 2019

DATE



**NANGANGAMOY...
SUMMER?** Kahit
pa paulit-ulit nang
ipinagbawal ng mga
awtoridad ang paglangoy
sa maruming tubig ng
Manila Bay, tuloy pa
rin kahapon sa paliligo
ang mga batang ito sa
tinatawag nilang "Baseco
Beach" sa Tondo.
JANSEN ROMERO



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



04 MAR 2019

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE



MANILA BAY WALK PERIMETER FENCE. Naglagay ang mga construction worker ng dagdag na perimeter fences sa bay walk area sa Roxas Boulevard upang mapigil ang mga tao na mag-swimming dito.

GIL CALINGA-PNA



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Strategic Communication Initiatives Service

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

FACE

UPPER
LOWER

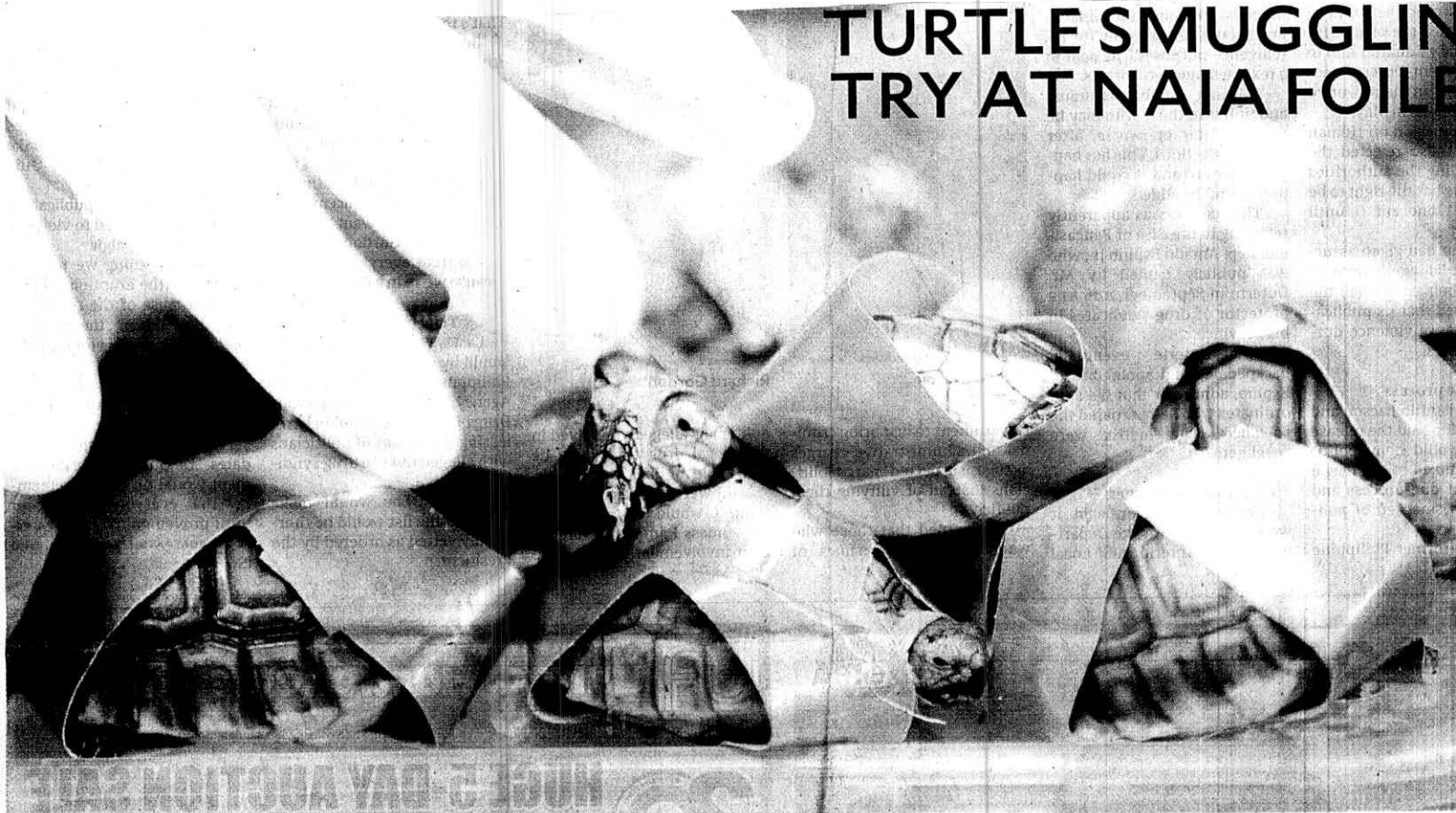
FACE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 MAR 2019
DATE



TURTLE SMUGGLING TRY AT NAIA FOILED

WILDLIFE CONTRABAND Customs personnel discovered some 1,500 duct-taped turtles belonging to different species when they opened a luggage abandoned by a Filipino passenger who arrived at Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 from Hong Kong on Sunday. The turtles were handed over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. —RICHARD A. REYES



04 MAR 2019

DATE

No slow night after Customs confiscates 1,500 live tortoises

CUSTOMS agents announced they foiled an attempt to smuggle into the country about 1,500 live tortoises on Saturday night.

Customs District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan said the turtles were found inside four pieces of luggage found abandoned at the baggage carousel area.

We suspect somebody informed the passenger his or her illegal shipment had gone through the x-ray scanner, Talusan said.

"So the passenger decided to leave

them unclaimed," she added.

Talusan said they were alerted to the smuggle attempt by the personnel manning the x-ray scanner. The Customs agents were told the x-ray revealed images of tortoises that were wrapped in duct tape.

Talusan said they suspect this was done to prevent the animals from moving.

She added the tiny amphibians were brought into the country by a Filipino traveler from Hong Kong late Wednesday night onboard Philippine Airlines flight PR 311.

Talusan said the seized items were turned over by the Customs bureau to the Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on March 3.

The shipment is composed of the Star, Redfoot, Sulcata and Red-eared slider tortoises.

Talusan said illegal wildlife trading is a violation of Republic Act 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act) and RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act). *Recto Mercene*



TITLE: _____

PAGE / _____

DATE

04 MAR 2019

1,500 turtles seized at NAIA

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) confiscated some 1,500 live turtles at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) on Saturday night.

Customs officials said the turtles, which were brought into the country from Hong Kong, were placed in four pieces of luggage.

Customs NAIA district collector Mimel Talusan said the bags were abandoned by an unidentified Filipino passenger.

The turtles were turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources wildlife monitoring unit.

Talusan said trading of turtles is prohibited under Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

- Rudy Santos



4 na bagaheng pagong naharang sa NAIA

KINUMPISKA ng mga tauhan ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 2 ang may 1,532 live turtle matapos itong tangkaing ipuslit papasok ng bansa kamakalawa nang gabi mula sa Hong Kong.

Ayon kay BOC-NAIA District Collector Mimel Talusan, ang mga pagong ay nakalagay sa apat na bagahe at ito ay inabandona ng may-ari sa baggage carousel sa loob ng arrival Customs area.

"Maybe the passenger was informed about

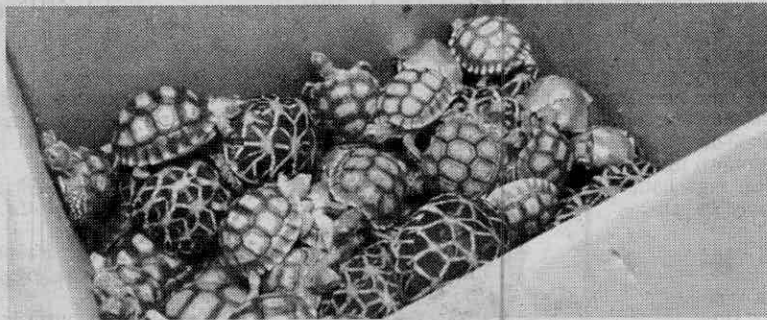
the illegal shipment and when examined the four luggage contains some 1,500 pieces of live turtles and they were all dock taped," ani Talusan.

Ang mga pagong

ay dala ng isang pasaherong Pinoy lulan ng Philippine Airlines flight PR 311 mula sa Hong Kong.

Nabatid na ang 1,532 live turtle na

kinabibilangan ng Star Tortoise, Redfoot Tortoise, Sulcata Tortoise, Red-eared Slider ay nasa loob ng iniwang bagahe. **(Otto Osorio)**



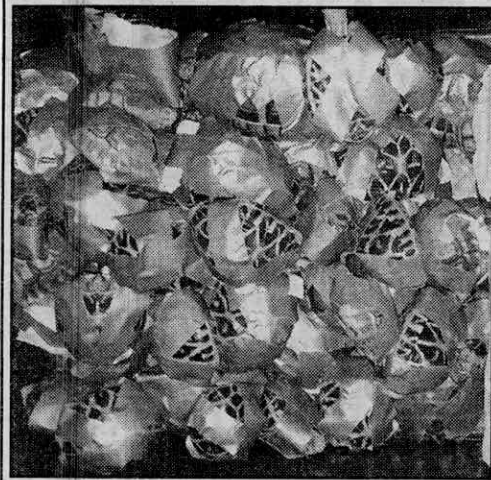
ANG mga buhay na pagong na laman ng apat na bagahe na dumating kahapon sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) mula sa HK.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

04 MAR 2019

DATE



Ang nasabat na libong pagong sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal na nakalagay sa 4 bagahe na bitbit ng isang pasaherong Pinoy galing Hong Kong.- Rudy Santos-

1,500 PAGONG NASABAT SA NAIA

Nasabat ng mga airport personnel ang nasa 1,500 pagong na nakalagay sa apat na bagahe sa Ninoy International Airport kahapon.

Sa ulat, dumating ang checked-in luggage na lulan ng isang Philippine Airlines flight mula sa Hong Kong na kung saan ay inabandona ng hindi nakilalang pasahero.

Kaya't napilitan ang mga airport personnel na buksan ang mga bagahe at tumambad sa kanila ang sari-saring mga pagong na aabot sa 1,532 piraso.

Sinisilip sa CCTV ang pasahero na nag-iwan ng apat na bagahe na may lamang mga pagong na nakatakdang ipasa sa animal quarantine authorities.

Anyang hindi na bago ang pagkakatagpo ng iba't ibang uri ng hayop sa NAIA na karamihan ay mga endangered at exotic na mga hayop tulad noong Pebrero 22 ay nasa 56 endangered species ng iguana at "bearded dragons" ang nasabat sa paliparan na itinago sa bagahe ng isang pasahero na galing naman sa Thailand.-Danilo Garcia-



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



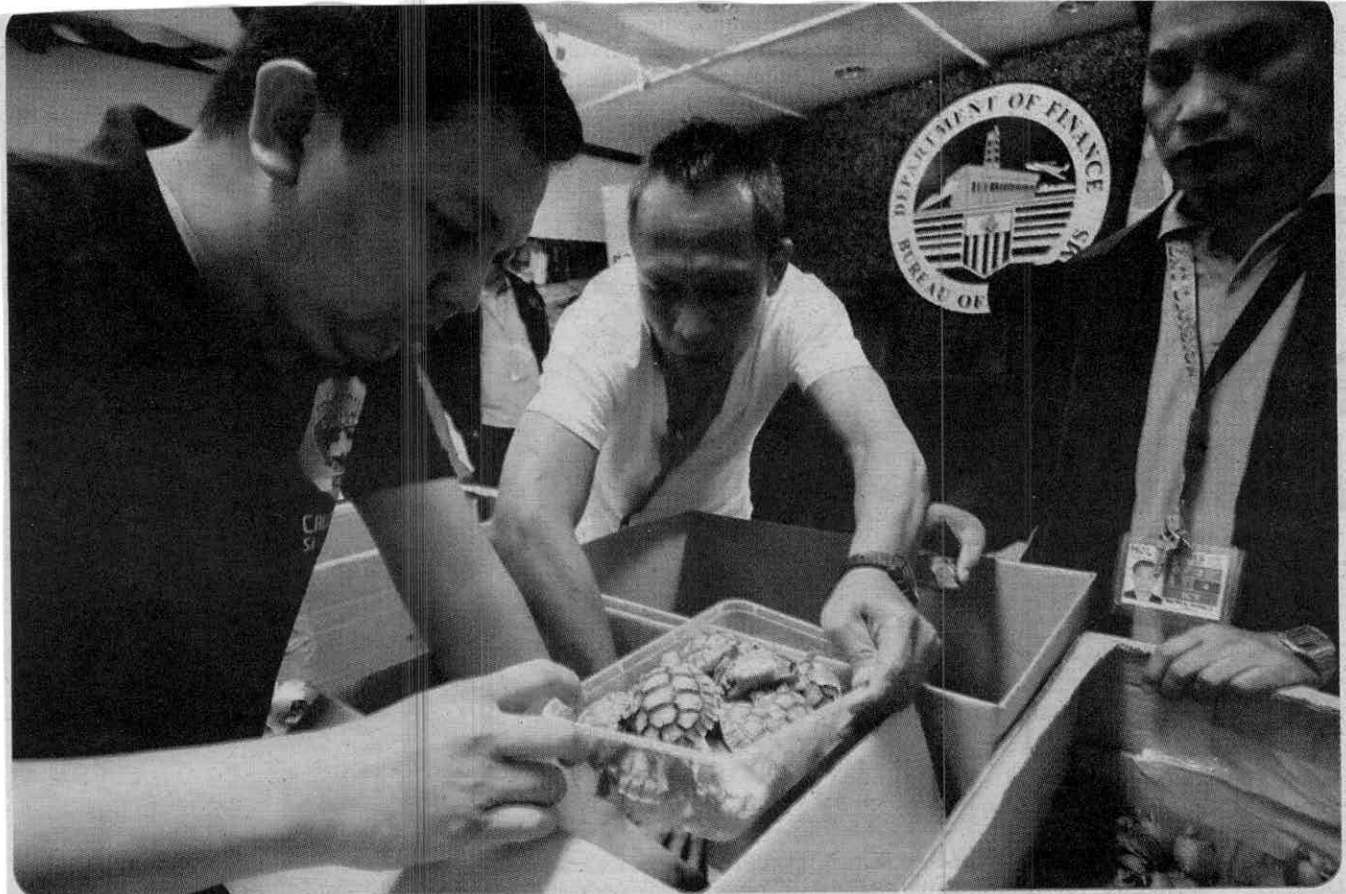
CARTOON

04 MAR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/



IPRINISINTA ng mga tauhan ng Bureau of Customs-Ninoy Aquino International Airport ang may P4.5 milyong halaga ng 1,500 iba't ibang uri ng pagong na nasabat sa bagahe ng isang parating na Filipino passenger mula sa Hong Kong. **Kuha ni NORMAN ARAGA**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAMAYAGANG TAGAL OG SA BANGSA



04 MAR 2019

DATE



PAGONG MULA HONG KONG

Tinatayang 1,500 pagong ang nasabat kahapon ng Bureau of Customs sa NAIA. Sa ulat ng Customs, ang mga pagong ay dala ng isang Pinoy mula sa Hong Kong.

JM ABCEDE



Life below water

On Saturday night, the eve of World Wildlife Day, Customs

authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 intercepted 1,500 turtles in four bags abandoned by a Filipino passenger from Hong Kong. Fortunately, the turtles, wrapped in duct tape in an attempt to avoid detection, survived the flight.

Trafficking in wildlife, for exotic food and medicine as well as ornamental purposes, has placed numerous marine species on the endangered list. Pollution and unsustainable commercial exploitation of resources have aggravated the problem, threatening food supplies, livelihoods and the marine ecosystem.

Marine life is the focus of this year's observance of World Wildlife Day. With the theme, "Life below water: for people and planet," it is the first time that the annual event is focusing on the sustainability of marine resources.

The United Nations reports that over three billion people worldwide depend on marine and coastal resources for their livelihoods, with the market value placed at \$3 trillion a year, or some five percent of global

EDITORIAL

GDP.

Yet experts say more than 30 percent of marine fish stocks with commercial value are overfished and 90 percent of large predators are gone from the oceans. The United Nations Development Program says a literal "sea change" is needed not just in marine resource utilization but also in land-based activities such as agriculture and waste management.

The Philippines, with its rich marine biodiversity, has a critical role to play in preserving life below water. The country, with its 7,100 islands, is home to the so-called center of the center of marine biodiversity in the world—the 1.14-million-hectare Verde Island Passage between Batangas and Mindoro that teems with shore fish. The passage has been damaged by pollution and the crown-of-thorns starfish that destroys corals.

Efforts are underway to preserve the Verde Island Passage. The cleanup of Boracay continues, and the government has launched an ambitious project to revive Manila Bay enough to make it fit for swimming. But many other waters around the country face similar threats. The effort to preserve marine resources must be unrelenting.



TITLE:

INAAYOS na ang Upper Chico River Irrigation System o UCRIS at itatayo na rin ang Chico River Pump Irrigation Project o CRPIP.

Sa halip na aantayin ang walong taon na matapos ang lahat ng ito, tatlong taon lamang ang pinakamatagal na paggawa rito at hanggang 2021 lamang.

Nanggagaling ang tubig ng 175 kilometrong Chico River sa Mountain Province at dumadaloy ito sa mga bayan nitong Bontoc, Sabangan at Sadanga at tuloy-tuloy itong dumadaloy sa mga bayan ng Kalinga na Tinglayan, Lubuagan, Tabuk City, at Pinukpok hanggang sa marating nito ang mga bayan ng Cagayan na Tuao, Piat, Rizal at Sto. Niño at luluwa na sa Cagayan River.

Lahat ng mga bayan sa mga nasabing lalawigan ay nakikinabang o makikinabang sa mga irigasyong ito.

Ang UCRIS mismo na kayang patubigan ang 6,600 ektarya ay pinakikinabangan na ng mga magsasaka sa mga bayan ng Mallig at Quezon sa lalawigan ng Isabela at ilang bayan sa Kalinga bagama't pansamantalang isinara dahil sa pag-repair dito.

Ang CRPIP ay magpapatubig naman ng nasa 8,700 ektarya sa Kalinga at Cagayan.

MAKIKINABANG

Sa Isabela at Kalinga, may 6,400 magsasaka ang nakikinabang sa UCRIS na may nililikha na ring kuryente.

Ang CRPIP naman ay pakikinabangan ng 4,400 magsasaka at tiyak na darami pa dahil sa kahilingan ng lalawigan ng Kalinga at Cagayan na dagdagan ng RCPIP ang saksaklawin nito ng nasa 3,000 ektarya.

Dati rati, karaniwang nag-aani ang mga magsasaka ng nasa 60 kaban bawat ektarya.

Pero sa karanasan sa UCRIS, umaabot na sa 80-100 kaban ang ani kada ektarya.

Ang irigasyon ay nagtitiyak ng dalawang beses na pagtatanim at pag-aani.

Kung hindi sisingit ang mga bagyo at kalamidad, tiyak namang mabubuhay ang mga magsasaka sa makataong kalagayan.

Lalo't may patakaran ngayon na libre na ang patubig sa mga irigasyon kahit pa malalaki ang gastos ng gobyerno



Ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

BUHAY BUBUTI SA CAGAYAN VALLEY AT CORDILLERA

no sa pag-repair at pagtatayo ng mga ito.

Iba pa ang ayuda na ibibigay ng Department of Agriculture gaya ng paggamit ng mga makinarya at pantang sa pagtatanim at subsidyo sa mga binhi, pataba at insecticide.

Mayroon ding ayuda mula sa mga lokal na pamahalaan sa anyong mas murang binhi, pataba at insecticide din, bukod pa sa mga generator para sa patubig.

Kung isasama ang mga malilikhang farm to market road, kitang-kita ang pagbuti ng kalagayan ng mga magsasaka.

Bibili rin sa mga magsasaka ang National Food Authority ng mga palay na gigilinging bigas at ibalik sa kanila sa mga oras ng sakuna o kalamidad.

AWAY SA PATUBIG

Hindi mawawala ang mga awayan sa paggamit ng tubig mula sa mga irigasyon, kasama na ang mga UCRIS at CRPIP.

Tiyak na may mga malalawak ang lupain at may mga maliliit.

Karaniwang pinapaboran ng mga korap na namamahala ng mga sistemang irigasyon ang mga may malalaking lupain kapalit ng malalaking halaga ng salapi at iba pang pabor.

Pero sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, hindi papayagan ang ganitong korapsyon na pinakikinabangan ng mga korap at mayayaman lamang.

Alam naman ng lahat na nagbigay na ang Malakanyang ng lahat ng paraan para maipaabot ang reklamo ng taumbayan sa kanila.

Naririyang ang numero 8888 na pupwedeng tawagan o ma-text.

Inaway pa nga ni Pangulong Digong ang Philippine Long Distance Telephone sa kakuriputan nitong magbigay ng iisang linya lamang at ngayon ay magdaragdagan na ito ng linya para mas mabilis ang komunikasyon.

Naririyang din ang pag-sulat o pagpunta mismo nang personal kay Pang. Digong kung hindi nakikinig o umaaksyon ang

mga opisyal at empleyado ng pamahalaan.

GIYERA SA CHICO RIVER

Noong panahon ni Apo Marcos, mga Bro, sa Chico River Dam Project nagsimula ang mga madudugong giyera sa Cordillera at Cagayan.

Isang dahilan ang hindi magandang kalagayan ng mga tinamaan sana ng proyekto na daan-daan o libo-libong pamilya.

Sa ibang salita, walong malinaw na relocations site na kumpleto ang mga pangangailangan ng mga relocatee.

Dito nagsimula ang mga malalakas na pwersa ng New People's Army na nakigiyera sa mga sundalo at pulis na gamit ng pamahalaan, lalo na ng mga mayayaman, sa kinalang mga interes sa patubig, kasama ang pagmimina at logging.

Hindi basta mapasok noon ng mga pwersa ng gobyerno ang mga teritoryo ng mga NPA na protektado ng mga mamamayang api dahil sa nasabing proyekto.

Subalit nagbago ang lahat nang nagpalit ang gobyerno at natalo ang mga NPA sa Marag Valley, Zinundungan Valley at iba pang kabahagi ng Chico River.

Pinondohan ng World Bank at sinimulang itayo ang UCRIS noong 1983 pero sumambulat nga ang giyera at nagpatuloy lang ito noong 1987 nang napalitan na ang gobyernong Marcos.

PAGBABAGO

Sana, sa kabila ng mga kritisismo at awayan sa pag-repair ng UCRIS at paggawa ng CRPIP, mamayani sa lahat ang tulongan at pagkakaisa

Hindi para sa kredito ni Pang. Digong at administrasyon nito kundi para sa kapakanan o kabutihan ng mga mamamayan.

oOo

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa banti-porda@yahoo.com.



NWRB NAKIPAGTULUNGAN SA PROYEKTO NG OECD-POLAND

TINATANGGAP ng pamahalaan ng Pilipinas, sa pamagitan ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ang panukala ng gobyerno ng Poland at ang Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) sa pinahusay na pamamahala ng tubig sa Pilipinas.

Ang pangunahing layunin ng proyektong ito ay upang tukuyin kung paano maaaring suportahan ng Poland at ng OECD ang Pilipinas upang tugunan ang mga hamon na may kaugnayan sa tubig at makapag-ambag sa pagpapatupad ng epektibo at mahusay na patakaran sa sektor ng tubig.

Ang proyekto ay nahahati sa dalawang yugto na inaasahang maisasakatuparan sa taong 2019. Ang unang yugto ay isang workshop para sa paggawa ng kapasidad sa Maynila para sa isang grupo ng mga gumagawa ng patakaran sa Pilipinas. Ang mga eksperto sa OECD at mga gumagawa ng patakaran mula sa Poland, kabilang ang mga eksperto sa pribadong sektor ay mag-silbing mga resource persons. Ang isang pagbisita sa pag-aaral sa Poland upang makakuha ng isang "first-hand experience" o magiging kanilang kauna-unahang karanasan base sa mga umiiral na kasanayan sa mga lungsod ng Poland, kung saan ito ay ang ikalawang bahagi ng proyekto.

Bukod sa pagbabahagi ng mga karanasan sa mga lugar na magkaparehong interes, ang hangaring ito ay inaasahang magtatag pa ng mga relasyon sa bilateral sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at Poland. Ang proyektong ito ay sa pakikipagtulungan sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),



ANG INYONG LINGKOD

DR. HILDA C. ONG

National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), at Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Binuksan muli ng embahada ng Poland sa bansa noong Enero 2018 pagkatakapos ng 24 na taon.

-ooOoo-

PCSO MULING NAMAHA- GI NG MGA GAMOT

Kaugnay sa hangarin ng Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) na makatulong sa pagbabawas ng pagkakaroon ng sakit sa mga komunidad, muli itong namahagi ng mga 'over-the-counter medicines' nitong nakaraang Linggo sa mga sumusunod -

1. Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor;
2. Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, Civil Military Operation, Armed Forces of the Philippines;
3. 7th Technical and Administrative Services Brigade Western Mindanao;
4. Office of the Mayor of Sorsogon City - Hon. Sally Lee;

5. Municipality of Rizal, Laguna sa pamumuno ni Mayor Antonino Aurelio;

6. Office of the Vice Mayor of Virac, Catanduanes - Hon. Arlynn Herbolario Arcilla, M.D.;

7. Quezon Provincial High School Class of 1969;

8. Barangay 118 sa Tondo, Manila;

9. Barangay Bulihan sa Silang, Cavite;

10. Barangay Lambakin ng Jaen, Nueva Ecija; at

11. Barangay Malacanang ng Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija;

Ang pagkakaloob ng mga libreng mga gamot ay bahagi ng programang 'Medicines Donation Program' ng PCSO alinsunod sa Universal Health Care Program ng Duterte administration.

Sa mga nagnanais na maka-avail ng mga gamot mula sa PCSO, magsumite lamang kayo ng liham kahilingan kina PCSO Chairman Anselmo Simeon Pinili o kay General Manager Alexander Balutan, o tumawag sa telepono bilang 650.0099 para sa kabuuang detalye.

Boracay, El Nido beaches voted among Asia's best

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

Despite its six-month closure last year, Boracay continues to gain interest from tourists with its beaches listed among the best in Asia in travel website *TripAdvisor's* 2019 Traveler's Choice Awards.

Boracay White Beach, described as the island's most popular beach famous for its amazing sunsets and white sand that stays cool in hot weather, ranked ninth among

the 25 best beaches in Asia.

In addition, Yapak (Puka Shell) Beach, the island's second largest beach named after the prevalent white puka seashells, also ranked 25th on the list.

Meanwhile, two more beaches in El Nido, Palawan – Nacpan Beach and Las Cabanas Beach – were also cited in the list, ranking 13th and 22nd, respectively.

"We take it that this *TripAdvisor* citation of Boracay and El Nido is indicative of the posi-

tive reactions to the reforms and new policies being implemented in an effort to inculcate a culture of sustainable tourism. This bodes well with our campaign of highlighting the people's genuine testimonials and reactions to our destinations," Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said.

TripAdvisor's 2019 Traveler's Choice Awards rank beaches, destinations and attractions, among others based on millions of traveler reviews and opinion.

Boracay White Beach received over six thousand reviews with

62-percent excellent rave reviews and 24-percent very good rating, with most of the comments acknowledging the successful rehabilitation of the island.

"Boracay still has it! After the six months rehab the Boracay White Beach is cleaner and clear. It has maintained its popularity among tourists and locals. It's really lovely during sunsets. The burst of colors are (sic) awesome. I saw garbage bins which were absent before," shared *TripAdvisor* reviewer mariasusnaf2018.

"The best beach in the world. Experience the new, renovated

and clean White Beach of Boracay. It is excellent for water-sports and I can swim here the whole day. Be careful with the sun and always use your sun-block with high factor. Food are excellent everywhere you go," commented jguzon from Oslo, Norway.

At present, 320 accommodation establishments in Boracay are cleared to operate by the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force. This translates to a total of 11,662 rooms that have complied with the requirements of the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources,

Interior and Local Government, and Tourism.

"The Inter-Agency Task Force is excited for the completion of the island's rehabilitation; the second phase in April and the third in December this year. It will further promote the better Boracay and see #MoreFunForever," Puyat said.

Boracay was earlier voted by readers of international travel magazine *Conde Nast Traveler* as the second best island in Asia.

It was joined by Siargao and Palawan, which ranked first and third on the list, respectively.



Boracay, El Nido rehab susi sa TripAdvisor award - DOT

LABIS ang pasalamat ng Department of Tourism sa muling pagkakasama ng Boracay at El Nido, Palawan sa listahan ng TripAdvisor's 2019 Travelers' Choice Awards.

Nakuha ng Boracay White Beach na naging tanyag na tourist destination dahil sa hindi matatawarang ganda ng sunset at white sand ang Top 9 rank sa pinakamagandang beach sa Asya sa kabila ng ginawang pagpapasara dito bunsod ng ipinatupad na rehabilitasyon.

Ang Nacpan Beach at Las Ca-

banas Beach sa El Nido, Palawan ang napili sa puwestong pang 13th at 22nd best island sa region.

Samantala, tinukoy na ng DOT sa pamamagitan ng mga partner agency na Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) na susunod na isasailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang El Nido.

"We take it that this TripAdvisor citation of Boracay and El Nido, is indicative of the of the positive reactions to the reforms and new

policies being implemented in an effort to inculcate a culture of sustainable tourism. This bodes well with our campaign of highlighting the people's genuine testimonials and reactions to our destination," sabi pa ni DOT Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat.

Ang TripAdvisor's 2019 Travelers' Choice Awards ay isang malaking travel website na kumikilala sa mga magagandang lugar, beach at mga attraction base sa review at opinyon ng mga biyahero o traveler sa buong mundo.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



15
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 MAR 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

4 BEACHES NG PINAS

Pasok sa Top Choice ng mga traveler

Mula sa pahina 16

Ayon sa naturang travel website, ang White Beach ng Boracay Island ang nakakopo ng pang-siyam na puwesto sa pinakamamagandang beach sa Asya, habang nakuha naman ng Nacpan Beach sa El Nido, Palawan ang pang-13 puwesto.

Pasok din ang Las Cabanas Beach sa El Nido, Palawan, ang pang-22 puwesto; habang ang Puka Shell Beach sa Boracay ang pumuwesto sa pang-25.

Nanguna naman sa listahan ang Radhanagar Beach, Havelock Island, Andaman and Nicobar Islands habang kabilang din sa lista-

han ang (2) Kelingking Beach, Nusa Penida, Bali; (3) Nai Harn Beach, Thailand; (4) Agonda Beach, India; (5) Bentota, Sri Lanka; (6) Phranang Cave Beach, Ao Nang, Thailand; (7) Varca Beach, Varca, India; (8) Karon Beach, Thailand; (10) Ngapali, Myanmar; (11) Cavellossim, India;

(12) Kata Beach, Thailand; (14) Mirissa, Sri Lanka; (15) Nusa Dua Beach, Indonesia; (16) Thong Nai Pan Noi, Surat Thani Province; (17) An Bang Beach, Hoi An, Vietnam; (18) Benaulim Beach, India; (19) Passikuda, Sri Lanka; (20) Haeundae, Busan, South Korea; (21) Pandawa Beach,

Kuta, Indonesia; (23) Hikkaduwa Beach, Sri Lanka; at (24) Selong Belanak, Indonesia.

Kaugnay nito, ikinigalag naman ng DOT ang naturang pagkilala.

"We take it that this TripAdvisor citation of Boracay and El Nido, is indicative of the positive reactions to the reforms and new policies being implemented in an effort to inculcate a culture of sustainable tourism," ayon kay Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat.

"This bodes well with our campaign of highlighting the people's genuine testaments and reactions to our destinations," aniya pa.

Matatandaang una nang isinailalim sa anim na buwang rehabilitasyon ang Boracay upang mapanatili ang kagandahan nito.

**Ana Rosario
Herandez**



04 MAR 2019

DATE

Boracay, El Nido pasok sa top beaches sa Asya

Pasok ang Boracay at El Nido sa Palawan sa listahan ng pinakamagandang beach sa Asya.

Nabatid na pang-siyam ang Boracay sa best beach in the region, ayon sa TripAdvisor's 2019 Traveler's Choice Awards.

Bukod sa Boracay, pasok din sa pang-13 pwesto ang Nacpan Beach at Las Cabanas beach sa El Nido, Palawan, na ibinase ang resulta sa mga testimonya o reviews ng mga traveller.

"We take it that this TripAdvisor citation of Boracay and El Nido, is indicative of the positive reactions to the reforms and new policies being implemented in an effort to inculcate a culture of sustainable tourism," pahayag ni Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat.

Noong nakalipas na taon ay ipinasara ang Boracay para sa rehabilitasyon na sa kasalukuyan ay nasa 320 establisimyento na ang dumaan sa island accounting ng Boracay Interagency Task Force.

Inaasahan ng DOT na mas maipo-promote pa ang Boracay sa oras na makumpleto na ang rehabilitasyon sa Disyembre. (*Ludy Bermudo*)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANGSA

3
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 MAR 2019

DATE

4 beach sa 'Pinas, pasok sa 2019 Traveller's Choice

Apat na naggagandahang beach sa Pilipinas ang nakapasok sa 2019 Traveller's Choice Top 25 Beaches sa Asia ng travel website na TripAdvisor.

Batay sa ulat ng TripAdvisor, nakuha ng White Beach sa Boracay Island ang pang-siyam na puwesto sa pinakamamagandang beach sa Asia, habang ang Nacpan Beach sa El Nido, Palawan ay nasa pang-13 puwesto.

Pasok rin ang Las Cabanas Beach

sa El Nido, Palawan (22) at Puka Shell Beach sa Boracay (25).

Nanguna sa listahan ang Radhanagar Beach, Havelock Island, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Kabilang rin sa listahan ang Kelingking Beach, Nusa Penida, Bali; Nai Harn Beach, Thailand; Agonda Beach, India; Bentota, Sri Lanka; Phranang Cave Beach, Ao Nang, Thailand; Varca Beach, Varca, India; Karon Beach, Thailand; Ngapali,

Myanmar; Cavelossim, India; Kata Beach, Thailand; Mirissa, Sri Lanka; Nusa Dua Beach, Indonesia; Thong Nai Pan Noi, Surat Thani Province; An Bang Beach, Hoi An, Vietnam; Benaulim Beach, India; Passikuda, Sri Lanka; Haeundae, Busan, South Korea; Pandawa Beach, Kuta, Indonesia; Hikkaduwa Beach, Sri Lanka; at Selong Belanak, Indonesia.

Mary Ann Santiago



DOT: 4 na beach ng Boracay, El Nido, pasok sa Best Beaches sa Asya

IKINATUWA ng pamahalaan ang pagkakapasok ng apat na naggagandahang beach sa bansa sa 2019 Traveler's Choice Top 25 Beaches sa Asya, ng travel website na TripAdvisor.

Ayon sa travel website, ang White Beach ng Boracay Island ang nakakopo ng pang-siyam na pwesto sa pinakamamagandang beach sa Asya, habang nakuha naman ng Nacpan Beach sa El Nido, Palawan ang pang-13 pwesto.

Pasok din ang Las Cabanas Beach sa El Nido, Palawan sa pang-22 pwesto; habang ang Puka Shell Beach sa Boracay ang pang-25.

Nanguna naman sa listahan ang Radhanagar Beach,

Havelock Island, Andaman and Nicobar Islands na sinundan ng Kelingking Beach, Nusa Penida, Bali; Nai Ham Beach, Thailand; Agonda Beach, India; Bentota, Sri Lanka; Phranang Cave Beach, Ao Nang, Thailand; Varca Beach, Varca, India; Karon Beach, Thailand; Ngapali, Myanmar; Cavelossim, India; Kata Beach, Thailand; Mirissa, Sri Lanka; Nusa Dua Beach, Indonesia; Thong Nai Pan Noi, Surat Thani Province; An Bang Beach, Hoi An, Vietnam; Benaulim Beach, India; Passikuda, Sri Lanka; Haeundae, Busan, South Korea; Pandawa Beach, Kuta, Indonesia; Hikkaduwa Beach, Sri Lanka; at Selong Belanak, Indonesia.

MACS BORJA



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

PEOPLES
JOURNAL
Tonight

b
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 MAR 2019

DATE

French see 'new' Boracay

SENATOR Loren Legarda presented to visiting French senators the all-new Boracay which she described as the product of the government's political will in implementing laws and policies.

Legarda, chairperson of the Senate committee on foreign relations as well as president and founding member of the Philippines-France Parliamentary Association, hosted a delegation of French senators in Boracay on March 2. The French delegation was composed of Senators Jacky Deromedi, Simon Sutour, Philippe Mouiller, and Jerome Durain.

"I am proud to share with fellow parliamentarians from France the successful story of the rehabilitation of one of the world's most famous tourist destinations. The story of Boracay Island is an example of how our laws are effective if leaders in the Executive have the political will to implement what we legislate," said Legarda.

Marlon Purificacion



Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times

B2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BATTER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 MAR 2019

DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Furniture sector urges fewer rules

FURNITURE manufacturers in the country recently called on the government to deregulate timber harvesting and transport from plantations to keep wood supplies at stable prices and help the industry become competitive.

Local furniture makers need to work with legal timber, but because of an executive order, only wood from plantations can be used, Nicolaas de Lange, chairman of the board of the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP), said in a statement.

Issued in 2011, Executive Order No. 23 declared a moratorium on cutting and harvesting of timber in natural and residual forests. It also created an

anti-illegal logging task force.

De Lange said domestic small and medium furniture manufacturers have to "maintain good design, quality and competitive pricing with good lead times" amid strong competition with imported goods. The furniture export market, meanwhile, also require sustainable supply of legal timber to sustain operations, he added.

"CFIP took [the] lead and developed a guidebook to help companies show due diligence. However, since even our plantations are over regulated, even this simple process is cumbersome," De Lange said.

He said deregulating timber harvesting and transport from

plantation could also push plantation owners to "get into tree farming, and with good supply, prices will be stable." "With less rules and documentation, proving due diligence will be easier for exporters," he added.

The CFIP also sought for the abolition of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order 99-46 which regulates the entry and disposition of imported logs and lumber, among others.

The order was "unclear" and a "burden" to furniture makers who needed to import wood supply, De Lange said.

TYRONE JASPER C. PIAD



SAY MO ATTORNEY?



By ATTY. PERSIDA RUEDA-ACOSTA
KGG. na Chief Acosta

Mayroon po akong fishpond sa ilog sa probinsya. Nalaman ko na nais itong ipatanggal ng munisipyo. Hindi po ba maaari nang ituring na pag-aari ko ito dahil higit 30 taon na ang fishpond ko rito?

Lubos na gumagalang, Victor

Dear Victor,

Para sa inyong kaalaman, ayon sa Kagalang-galang na Korte Suprema sa Sotera Paulino Marcelo vs. Hon. Court of Appeals (G.R. No. 131803, 14 April 1999, Ponente: Honorable former Associate Justice Jose C. Vitug):

“Acquisitive prescription is a mode of acquiring ownership by a possessor

Fishpond sa ilog maaaring tanggalin ng gobyerno

through the requisite lapse of time. In order to ripen to ownership, possession must be in the concept of an owner, public, peaceful and uninterrupted.”

Subalit, nakasaad sa Artikulo 1113 ng Civil Code:

“Article 1113. All things which are within the commerce of men are susceptible of prescription, unless otherwise provided. Property of the State or any of its subdivisions not patrimonial in character shall not be the object of prescription.”

Ayon din sa Artikulo 502 ng nasabing batas:

“Article 502. The following are of public dominion:
1. Rivers and their natural beds.

Sang-ayon sa nabanggit, ang inyong fishpond sa ilog ay maaaring ipatanggal ng gobyerno kahit pa mahigit ng 30 taon na ang inyong fishpond doon sa kadhilangang ang ilog ay parte

ng public dominion at hindi maaari angkinin sa pamamagitan ng acquisitive prescription.

Nawa ay nasagot namin ang inyong mga katanungan. Nais naming ipaalala sa inyo na ang opinyong ito ay nakabase sa inyong mga salaysay sa inyong liham at sa pagkaintindi namin dito. Maaaring maiba ang opinyon kung mayroong karagdagang impormasyon na ibibigay. Mas mainam kung personal kayong sasangguni sa isang abogado.

**Ang inyong Lingkod Bayan,
DR. PERSIDA V. RUEDA-ACOSTA, DSD
Punong Manananggol Pambayan**

Paunawa:

Isangguni ang iba pa ninyong usaping legal sa aming opisina sa address na nakasaad sa pitak na ito o kaya ipadala ang inyong katanungan sa aming e-mail

address: pao executive-@yahoo.com o tumawag sa PAO hotline: (02) 426-2801; 426-2450; 426-2987; o 929-9436 local 106 o 107 during office hours at local 159 after office hours.

Ang mga serbisyong legal ng PAO gaya ng legal advice, court representation, pagsasagawa ng dokumento, notaryo at iba pa ay libre at walang bayad mula sa kliyente ng PAO sang-ayon sa R.A. 9406 (PAO Law). Sang-ayon din sa nasabing batas, ang katangali o kalaban sa kaso na matatalo ang magbabayad ng attorney's fee sa PAO para ideposito sa National Treasury. Maaaring isumbong kay Chief Acosta ang sino mang public attorney o empleyado ng PAO na manghihingi o tatanggap ng salapi mula sa kliyente ng PAO sa address na ito: 5th Floor, DOJ Agencies Building, NIA Road corner East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, 1104.



PHL BEST IN S.E. ASIA FOR WOMEN EYEING TOP POSTS

By ELIJAH FELICE E. ROSALES

[@alyasjah](#)

THE Philippines is the best country among Southeast Asian nations for women aspiring to get senior management posts, according to a survey by international consultancy firm Grant Thornton.

Women make up 37 percent of senior management posts in Philippine firms, the survey reported. This was higher than the average of 28 percent in Southeast Asia and 29 percent worldwide.

The country was very slightly ahead of Vietnam (37 percent), and bested Singapore (33 percent), Indonesia (32 percent), Malaysia (23 percent) and Thailand (19 percent) in the region.

However, the Philippines fell four notches to fifth from being the best country globally for women in business last year. It performed behind New Zealand (44 percent), Australia (42 percent), Nigeria (38 percent) and

47%

The percentage of women getting top senior management posts in 2018, making the 37-percent score this year actually the country's worst performance compared to previous years in the annual survey. It was 40 percent in 2017, and 39 percent in 2016

Botswana (38 percent).

This was also the worst performance of the country compared to previous years in the annual survey, after getting 47 percent in 2018, 40 percent in 2017 and 39 percent in 2016.

Most roles female workers play in Philippine firms are as human resources director (75 percent), chief finance officer (66 percent) and chief operating officer (53 percent), the survey said.

This was followed by sales director (45 percent), chief marketing officer (44 percent) and chief information officer (36 percent).

In spite of the above-average performance of the Philippines, there are still barriers here to getting women to top posts.

Female executives in the country cited the lack of access to opportunities (55 percent) and finding the time alongside core job opportunities (51 percent) as primary barriers to career growth.

They also said caring responsibilities outside work and lack of access to networking opportunities (both at 47 percent) are hindering them from being successful in their roles.

On the other hand, Philippine firms are rolling out measures to preserve gender balance in their workspaces.

The survey reported these initiatives include ensuring equal access to developmental work opportunities (70 percent), providing mentoring and

coaching (66 percent), and enabling flexible working (56 percent). Companies here also review their recruitment approaches constantly (55 percent) and set targets for gender balance at leadership levels (51 percent) to give women the space they deserve in top posts.

Grant Thornton International Global Leader for Network Capabilities Francesca Lagerberg said the figures this year "are incredibly encouraging, and a strong indication that gender parity is starting to be taken seriously by businesses."

"External factors, such as increasing organizational transparency, gender pay gap reporting and highly visible public dialogue, like the #MeToo movement, appear to be making businesses wake up to the change that is needed," Lagerberg said in a news release.

Grant Thornton obtained the response of 4,900 senior executives and decision makers from 35 countries and territories for the survey. The survey had 73 respondents from the Philippines.