

07 MAR 2019

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**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**



## CIMATU LAUDS DENR-SMC TIE-UP TO BOOST BAY REHAB

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonlmayuga

**E**NVIRONMENT Secretary Roy A. Cimatu lauded food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. (SMC) for its commitment to clean up the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System, one of the major river systems draining into the heavily polluted Manila Bay.

This, after the SMC, led by President and COO Ramon Ang, on Monday formally entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under the Adopt-A-River Program, a priority initiative of the agency and a key strategy to fulfill the Supreme Court's continuing mandamus to clean up Manila Bay.

"Let me laud and thank [SMC] for heeding the call and joining us on this massive rehabilitation effort to clean up this very important river system," Cimatu said in a news statement.

"By working together, we hope to send a stronger message on how committed we are in securing a healthier future for our rivers and creeks that empty into Manila Bay," the DENR chief added.

Cimatu said the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System has to be rehabilitated considering that it got failing marks in almost all the physicochemical standards set for Class C waters.

Class C waters are for propagation and growth of fish and other aquatic resources; for recreation such as boating, fishing or similar activities; and for agriculture, irrigation and livestock watering.

The 59-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River System, which starts from La Mesa Dam in Quezon City and drains into the Manila Bay at Centennial Park in Navotas City, is one of the dirtiest waterways emptying into the bay.

SMC pledged P1 billion for the dredging and cleanup of the river system, including the purchase of backhoes, cranes with a claw, dump trucks, barges and fuel.

Ang said the company will invest by buying barges, backhoes, cranes with clamshell and dump trucks, as well as lighting and generators, for the cleanup.

Under the MOA, the parties agree to develop and implement a comprehensive program intended to reduce pollution in the river system. They will also coordinate and participate in the regular planning and implementation of the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System: Adopt-A-River Program.

For its part, the DENR will ensure the reduction of the pollution of the river system, undertake regular water quality monitoring, provide technical assistance to local government units traversing the river system, and establish appropriate materials-recovery facility/system in concerned barangays.

It will also facilitate actions against violations of Republic Acts 9275 (Clean Water Act), 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act) and 6969 (Toxic Substances, Hazardous, and Nuclear Waste Control Act); and provide information and education campaign with the communities concerned, among others.

On the other hand, SMC will assist in the dredging and cleanup plan provided by the DENR, lend equipment and provide operators for these; provide funding for equipment operations, such as fuel and logistics cost; remove garbage through surface cleanup; and engineering solutions, such as the installation of trash traps and other similar measures.

### Conflict of interest?

MEANWHILE, environmental groups under Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment raised questions over possible conflict of interest in the DENR-SMC partnership.

Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan-PNE, said the P1-billion fund allotted by the company can serve as "soft payment," to fast-track various reclamation projects of SMC in Manila Bay.

"San Miguel's P1-billion rehab is highly suspicious because it comes alongside its push for its Aerotropolis and Expressway-Dike reclamation projects across Northern Manila Bay. We fear that it might serve as 'greenwashing' to cover up for these destructive projects, at best, or grease money for the railroading of reclamation, at worst," he said.



## DENR, SMC sanib-pwersa sa Manila Bay rehab

**NAGSANIB-pwersa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources at San Miguel Corp. sa paglilinis ng Tullahan-Tinajeros River System na isa sa mga ilog na nagpaparumi sa Manila Bay.**

Sa isang memorandum of agreement, magiging katuwang ng DENR ang SMC sa ilalim ng Adopt-A-River program ng ahensya para maipatupad ang inilabas na mandamus ng Supreme Court para sa Manila Bay clean-up.

Nitong nakalipas na Lunes nilagdaan ang MOA sa pagitan nina Sec. Roy Cimatu at SMC president at COO Ramon Ang na ginanap sa DENR Central Office sa Quezon City nag-

pasalamat ang kalihim sa suportang ibinigay ng naturang kompanya upang mabawasan ang polusyon sa ilog kaugnay ng Manila Bay rehabilitation.

Ayon kay Cimatu, kinakailangang linisin ang Tullahan-Tinajeros River System lalo pa at batay sa DENR Water Quality Status Report, hindi pumasa ang tubig sa ilog sa pamantayan ng physico-chemical para sa Class C waters.

Ang Class C waters ay para sa pagpapalaki at pagpaparami ng isda at iba pang "aquatic resources"; para sa mga gawain sa tubig tulad ng boating, fishing at iba pang kahalintulad nito; para sa agrikultura, irigasyon at livestock watering.

**SANTI CELARIO**



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**NEGATIVE IMPACT**

# LESS CATCH IN MANILA BAY DREDGING, SAY FISHERFOLK

By **Mariejo S. Ramos**  
@MariejoRamosINQ

A group of militant fisherfolk on Wednesday expressed concern over the potential economic and environmental impact of the dredging activities on Manila Bay to the livelihood of small fishermen in surrounding areas.

"Dredging-related stressors such as movement of solid particles, the discharge of toxic contaminants, and noise pollution can effectively disrupt the movement of fish species and various marine life in Manila Bay," said Fernando Hicap, national chair of Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya).

On Tuesday, the Department of Public Works and Highways began massive dredging activities in a 1.5-kilometer stretch of Manila Bay to remove more than 225,000 cubic meters of silt and garbage from the bay.

### Respect rights

"While we support a genuine rehabilitation of Manila Bay to restore its ecosystem, the government must assure us that the dredging part will not result in reclamation and that the rights of the small fisherfolk would be respected," added Hicap, a former Anakpawis party-list representative, addressing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Hicap said he feared that long-term dredging would affect the income of small fisherfolk whose catch had been dwindling in recent years because of environmental degradation.

Fisherfolk used to catch from 10 to 15 kilos a day. That has now fallen to 2 to 5 kilos, he added.

Pamalakaya said the government must provide more livelihood and economic assistance to the fisherfolk who would be affected by the dredging.

### 43 pending projects

The group also urged the DENR to prevent "a full-scale sellout of Manila Bay" to private developers, as it noted that there are over 43 pending reclamation projects covering more than 30,000 hectares of Manila Bay.

Included in the project are 4,900 hectares encompassing portions of Cavite province, according to Pamalakaya.

In Bacoor, Cavite, the local government has partnered with Frabelle Fishing Corp. and Aboitiz for a 944-hectare reclamation project.

Another joint project between the provincial government and controversial businessman Wilfredo Keng covers more than 2,200 hectares.

The reclamation projects could affect 26,000 coastal families from Bacoor, Novelleta, Kawit, Rosario and Cavite City through displacement and forcible ejection, Pamalakaya warned.

Malacañang earlier said that the reclamation projects would generate income for the government and bring in more jobs for Filipino workers.

Although Interior Secretary Eduardo Año has said that all reclamation projects would be reviewed, he also clarified that while his department could recommend whether or not the project should push through, Malacañang would have the last say. INQ



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## SMC VOWS TO REHABILITATE TULLAHAN RIVER

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has found a "big ally" in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

Food and beverage giant San Miguel Corporation (SMC) has signed up for the clean-up drive.

Secretary Roy Cimatu

said the SMC agreed to clean-up the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) it entered into with the DENR last Monday.

Tullahan-Tenajeros River is one of the major river systems connected the heavily polluted bay.

SMC pledged P1 billion for the dredging and cleanup of the river system, including the purchase of backhoes, cranes with claw, dump trucks, barges and fuel.

"Work will be done 16 hours a day, six days a week. In two years, the whole 59-km stretch will

be clean," said SMC president and COO Ramon Ang after the MoA signing.

Ang called on the DENR to support their efforts by ensuring that illegal businesses along the river system do not hinder the clean-up drive. "Nobody should even build anything with-

in the river," he said.

Cimatu lauded the SMC for participating in the Adopt-a-River program, a priority initiative of the agency and a key strategy to address the continuing mandamus of the Supreme Court to clean up the historic bay.

**Joel dela Torre**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# BusinessMirror

*A broader look at today's business*

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**MECHANIZED CLEANUP** The Department of Public Works and Highways has started massive desilting works at Manila Bay on Tuesday. A fleet of equipment consisting of more than two dozens of amphibious excavators, dumping scows, dump trucks, debris segregator, street sweepers and vacuum sewer jet cleaners were deployed for the cleanup drive to be undertaken in different strategic locations in an operation dubbed as DPWH Sagip Manila Bay. An estimated 225,000 cubic meters of silt will be removed across the approximately 1.5-kilometer stretch of Manila Bay from Manila Yacht Club breakwater to US Embassy. NONIE REYES





## Boracay rehab resumes

By Kuhlin Ceslie Gacula

There is no stopping the rehabilitation of Boracay despite the new focus directed at the clean-up of the Manila Bay, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu assured on Wednesday.

"We know the roads are still dusty. We ask for patience, the Boracay rehabilitation is still a work in progress," Cimatu said.

Boracay task force members still meet regularly to monitor the implementation of DENR plans to restore the island and review policies or regulations, according to Cimatu.

Officials of the 11 BIATF member-agencies also regularly visit the island to check on the rehabilitation's progress.

**We ask for patience, the Boracay rehabilitation is still a work in progress.**

The DENR expects completion by June of a government hospital.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will soon eliminate unsightly overhead "spaghetti cables" and rewire them underground.

Cimatu confirmed that both the DENR and the DILG have identified for demolition 10 establishments which are non-compliant with regulations on easement along the beach and road.

These are the Boracay Plaza Resort, Willy's Rock Resort, Little Prairie Inn, Watercolors Dive Shop, Blue Lily Hotel, True Home, Exclusive Dawn VIP Boracay Resort, New Wave Divers, Steve's Cliff and Calveston International.



## DOT hails Boracay, El Nido TripAdvisor mention

THE Department of Tourism's (DOT) thrust for sustainable tourism continues to gain traction with two of its flagship destinations—Boracay and El Nido, Palawan—being listed among TripAdvisor's 2019 Travelers' 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 9th among the beaches in Asia despite its temporary closure last year.

El Nido, Palawan's Nacpan Beach and Las Cabanas Beach were voted as the 13th and 22nd best island in the region.

Meanwhile, the DOT together with partner line agencies Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) have identified El Nido as among the destinations up for rehabilitation.

The secretaries of these departments mapped out the rehabilitation plan of El Nido late last year.

"We take it that this TripAdvisor citation of Boracay and El Nido is indicative of the positive reaction 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 testament and reaction to our destinations," said Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat. The TripAdvisor's 2019 Travelers' Choice Awards ranks beaches, destinations,

and attractions, among others, based on millions of traveler reviews and opinions.

Boracay White Beach received over 6,000 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 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

**THE Boracay cleanup is just the first step in keeping the Philippines a choice destination.**



for water sports and I can swim here the whole day. Be careful with the sun and always use your sunblock with high factor. Food are excellent everywhere you go," commented jguzon from Oslo, Norway.

Yapak Beach, the second-largest beach on Boracay named after the prevalent white puka seashells, was also listed at 25th.

As of February 27, a total of 320 accommodation establishments in Boracay accounting for 11,662 rooms are now DOT-accredited.

"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," Puyat added.





## BORACAY, CORON, MANILA BAY, ETC.

**HALOS** mabasag ang ngala-ngala ng mga kritiko ni Pangulong RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE na walang tigil sa pagpuna sa kanyang mga galaw, salita, pahayag at pagpapatupad ng proyekto para sa bansa at sambayanan.

Nito ngang huli ay nilinaw niya na wala siya at ang kanyang administrasyon na angkinin ang mga natapos na sa kanyang termino.

Malinaw, paano aangkinin ang proyekto na ang ginastos nga naman ay pera ng mamamayan?

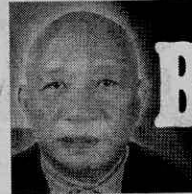
Kaya nga lang, minsan, taumbayan na ang naiirita sa pambabato ng kritiko at oposisyon dahil kahit alam nila na tama at maganda ang proyekto, kailangan palabasin nilang mali at walang kuwenta ang natapos?

Halimbawa na lang 'yung napakagandang paliguan na ISLA NG BORACAY.

Totoo ang mala-kristal na tubig at mala-kristal ding napakapino na buhangin. Nagsiyaman ang mga namahala doon kasama siyempre ang mga namuno sa lokal na pamahalaan.

Okay na sana pero naging pabaya sila at dumami ang lumot. Marami ang nagkasakit pero wala lang sila. Nang Makita ni Pangulong RODY ang hitsura ng Boracay, walang gatol na sinabi niya dagat ng dumi o "cess-pool"!

Hayun na. Idineklara ng DENR at DoT na isasara ng 6 na buwan muna para ayusin ang Boracay. Kaagad din isinunod ang mga isla sa Palawan, ang Coron at iba pang mga kilalang paliguan.



## BALETODO

ni ED VERZOLA

Ayaw ni MAYOR DIGONG na manatili ang pambababoy sa napakaganda natin na mga isla.

Naayos, bumalik ang ganda at hinigpitan ang pamamahala sa Boracay at mga isla sa Coron, Palawan.

Ngayon, naitala muli na paborito ng mga dayuhan pa rin ang Boracay pero kung pupunta sila, kayo, tayo, kailangan handa tayong sumunod sa patakaran ng mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan na namamala roon.

Heto naman. Kamakailan ay mas marahas pa ang inisyatibo ng DENR at mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan sa pangunguna ng DILG - "LINISIN ANG Manila Bay!"

Aba teka, lalong nag-ulol ang mga kritiko na hindi raw totoo na liliinis ni Pang. DUTERTE et al ang Manila Bay kundi dahil lang daw sa gagawin na reklamasyon na "ipamimigay" lang daw sa mga saradong kaalyado ng PANGULO?

Teka, teka, ayaw natin magwala o magmura sa bintang ng oposisyon at kritiko. Pero sino kaya sa atin ang totoo na ayaw Makita na ang lahat ng dalampasigan natin ay malinis?

Boracay, Coron, Manila Bay, etc. ayaw ba ninyo ang paghahari ng kristal na tubig ng mga dagat natin?



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# The Manila Times

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## Appointment of Sarangani Bay supervisor questioned

MEMBERS of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape have asked Secretary Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to reconsider the appointment of a new Protected Area Supervisor (PASU),

which they said did not pass the board's scrutiny.

Noel Ben, PAMB legal counsel, said the board passed a resolution asking Cimatu to revoke a special order of Noel Tamoria, DENR regional executive director, designating Joy Ologuin as the new PASU last January 9, three days be-

fore the election period, which prohibits the appointment and reassignment of government officials and employees.

Ben said Tamoria violated provisions of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Law, which mandates the PAMB to submit a short list of applicants to the position

from whom the DENR regional director will pick for appointment to the post.

He added that Tamoria clearly violated the law when he bypassed the PAMB's recommendatory power when he appointed the new PASU.

Tamoria, who serves concurrently as PAMB chairman,

said he removed PASU Iskag Dipatuan, who had been in the post since 2016, as part of the ongoing revamp within DENR Region 12.

Ben said the board hopes that Cimatu would reconsider their position and recognize their authority to recommend an applicant to the post of

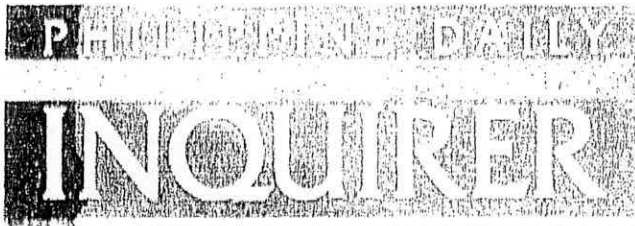
PASU as provided under the NIPAS Law.

He added that PAMB, which is composed of various stakeholders who were tasked to formulate policies to protect Sarangani Bay, was merely exercising its rights vis-à-vis the appointment of the PASU.

**JERRY N. ADLAW**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



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REGIONS

## Hog farms blamed for dirty rivers

SAN PEDRO CITY—The environment department has identified animal farms as major polluters of Calabarzon's rivers. Dirty water flowing into river systems in the region's five provinces ends up in Laguna de Bay and Manila Bay. A group of livestock growers, however, has asked the government to give them time to comply with regulations, saying shutting down erring farms would hurt the industry. —STORY BY MARICAR CINCO

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**SAVING WATERWAY** Volunteers, armed with sticks used as trash pickers, clean a section of San Juan River in Batangas province. The environment department says waste from households and livestock farms contribute to pollution of major rivers in Calabarzon. —PHOTO COURTESY OF DENR CALABARZON





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 Strategic Communication Initiatives Service

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# Hog farms blamed for dirty rivers

Calabarzon livestock growers ask for leniency, saying closure will hurt meat industry

By Maricar Cinco  
 @maricarcincoINQ

SAN PEDRO CITY—Animal farms operating in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) have been identified by the environment department as a major contributor to the pollution of the region's major waterways that drain into Laguna de Bay and Manila Bay.

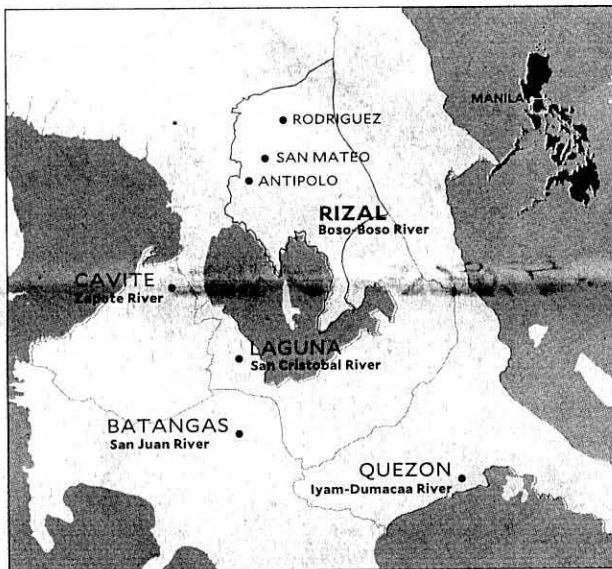
The role of the livestock industry, particularly backyard hog raisers, in water pollution was again raised following a regionwide river cleanup led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) last week.

The DENR traced fecal coliform in the rivers, with the highest concentration found in the 18-kilometer Boso-Boso River that passes through Antipolo City and the towns of Rodriguez and San Mateo, all in Rizal province.

## Livelihood

Water sampling in Boso-Boso showed that coliform level was highest midstream, near Antipolo City, at 270 million most probable number per 100 milliliters.

Following the March 1 river cleanup, Maria Paz Luna, DENR regional director, said the



CALABARZON RIVERS

INQ GRAPHICS

agency had identified at least four livestock farms, each "with 70,000 to 100,000 head," in Rizal for inspection.

In January, the DENR in Calabarzon had issued notices of violation of the Clean Water Act (Republic Act No. 9275) to 210 livestock farms in Batangas province. These farms either allowed animal waste to flow di-

rectly into the water or lacked waste treatment facilities.

A group of livestock farmers, however, has asked the national government for some leniency in shutting down animal farms that failed to comply with proper waste disposal.

"We don't deny that, somehow, livestock production contributes to pollution ... but we

have to understand that this is a livelihood," Rep. Rico Geron, who represents the party-list Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines (Agap), said in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

Geron said that given the dipping market price of local meat, as a result of the importation of agricultural products, hog raisers were forced to "prioritize making ends meet over waste management."

## Convenient

"We support [environmental initiatives], but all we ask is to give [hog raisers] time to improve [their facilities] and comply [with the policies]," said former Agap Rep. Nicanor Briones, in a separate interview.

According to Agap, the P200-billion hog industry supplies 90 to 95 percent of meat for the local market. About 70 percent of livestock farms are also backyard piggeries, each with just five to 100 animals.

Geron said it had been a practice for backyard raisers to put up farms along creeks and rivers as a "convenient" means to dispose animal waste.

"The level of awareness (on waste management) is not that high. To make (environmental rehabilitation sustainable), it

has to be a multisectoral approach. Don't rush things and provide some assistance (to hog raisers)," Geron added.

Aside from Boso-Boso, volunteers cleaned up parts of Zapote River in Cavite province, San Cristobal River in Laguna province, San Juan River in Batangas province, and Iyam-Dumacaa River in Quezon province.

More than 700 sacks of trash were collected, including used diapers, plastic food cups, cigarette butts and even dead animals.

The five river systems drain into the Laguna Lake and eventually into Manila Bay, whose rehabilitation by the government kicked off in January.

The regional Environmental Management Bureau said sanitary landfills in Calabarzon could not accommodate the large volumes of waste.

Ann Hazel Javier, spokesperson for the DENR Calabarzon, said 36 sanitary landfills were operating in the region but only 13 followed DENR standards.

Javier said these landfills had failed in collecting all of the region's solid waste. "We continue to monitor (these landfills) as we are to issue notices of violation to noncompliant [facilities]," she said. INQ





## Wildlife smuggling nasabat ng BOC sa NAIA T2

TIMBOG sa mga elemento ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) ang 1,529 live exotic turtles sa Port of Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 2, Pasay City.

Ang mga kompiskadong pagong (Star Tortoise, Redfoot Tortoise, Sulcata Tortoise, Red-eared Slider live species), ay natagpuan sa loob ng iniwang bagahe ng isang pasaherong Filipino mula sa flight PR #311 Hong Kong, kung saan nai-turned over sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (DENR-WTMU).

Batay sa ulat ang Illegal Wildlife Trading ay paglabag sa RA 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act) at RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act).

Kung saan ang paglabag dito ay nahaharap sa pagkakulong ng 1 hanggang 2 taon at multang P20,000 hanggang P200,000.00

Matatandaan noong taong 2018 ang Port of NAIA ay nakapagsumite sa DENR ng kabuuang 560 wildlife and endangered species kabilang na ang 250 geckos, 254 corals at iba pang reptiles na smuggled sa pamamagitan ng air parcels, baggage and shipments, kung saan nuna rito nitong taon sa pagpupunyagi ng mga operatiba ng Customs NAIA ay nasakote ang 63 Iguanas, Chameleon at Bearded Dragons.

Ang BOC NAIA ay patuloy na magbibigay ng proteksyon sa hangganan laban sa mga ilegal na importasyon at eksportasyon ng wildlife trade at iba pang ipinagbabawal at anti-social goods.

(Pasky Natividad)



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## Maynilad breaks ground for Las Piñas Water Reclamation Facility



**April Aguilar (5th from left), lead the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Las Piñas Water Reclamation Facility. With her are Ramoncito Fernandez (6th from left), president and CEO of Maynilad; Rose Bantog, city engineer; Cezar Perillo, City Environment and Natural Resources Office officer in charge; Councilors Mark Anthony Santos and Henry Medina.**

**L**AS Piñas City Mayor Imelda Aguilar, represented by daughter April Aguilar, led the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction

of the Las Piñas Water Reclamation Facility located on a 2.25-hectare lot along Alabang Zapote Road, in Barangay Pamplona Uno.

The facility is the newest project of Maynilad, and once completed, will be its largest sewage treatment plant in terms of capacity, treating about

88 million liters of wastewater per day. With the project's completion by 2021, Las Piñas residents will be assured of enough clean water.



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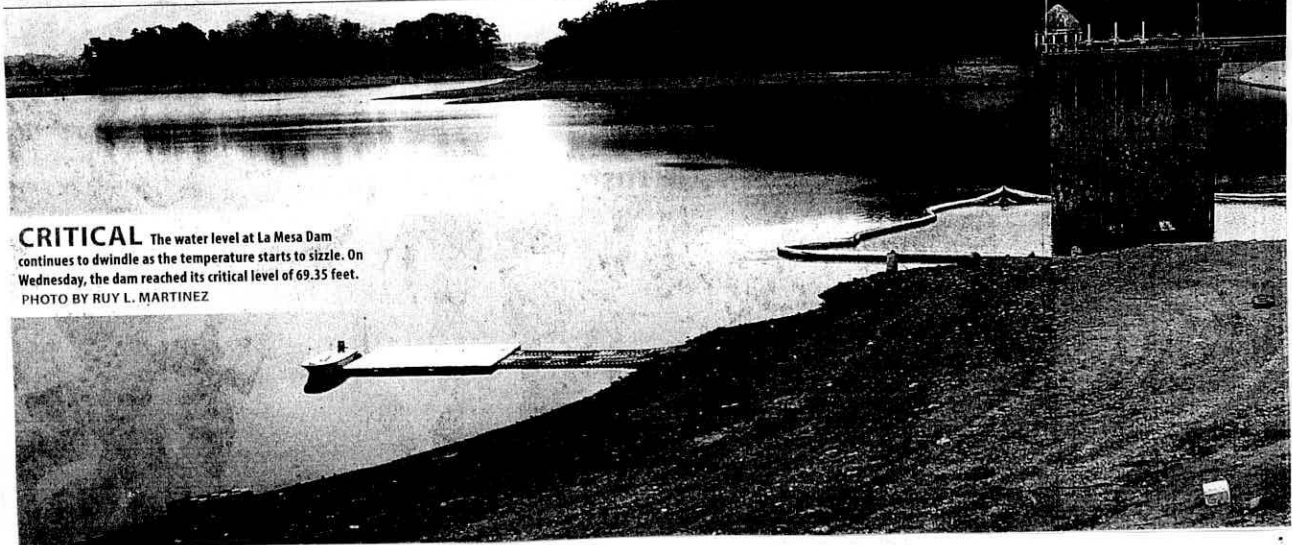
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THURSDAY March 7, 2019

The Manila Times  
www.manilatimes.com



**CRITICAL** The water level at La Mesa Dam continues to dwindle as the temperature starts to sizzle. On Wednesday, the dam reached its critical level of 69.35 feet.  
PHOTO BY RUY L. MARTINEZ



## MAYNILAD CEO NAGSALITA SA INT'L WATER ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

ANG President at CEO ng Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) na si Ramoncito S. Fernandez ay nagsalita sa isang pagtitipon na dinaluhan ng 377 global water experts mula sa 27 bansa sa panahon ng 10th International Water Association (IWA) Conference na ginanap kamakailan sa Pasay City.

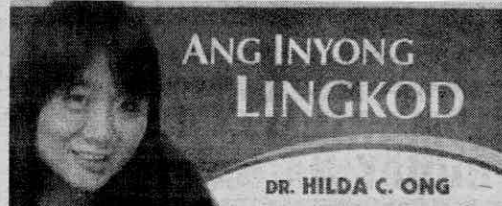
Sa kanyang pananalita sa panahon ng IWA "Efficient 2019" Conference, binigyang-diin ni Fernandez na kinakailangan ng malakas na pakikipagtulungan ng global water stakeholders, habang ang mga umuusbong na hamon ay nanawagan ngayon para sa mga makabagong solusyon upang matiyak ang seguridad at pagpapanatili ng tubig. "Ang bawat isa sa atin ay nagdudulot ng isang natatanging pana-

naw sa mga isyu sa tubig, at ang mga pananaw na ito ay tumutulong upang makumpleto ang pandaigdigang pananaw para sa industriya ng tubig sa pagbabago ng klima, kakulangan sa supply at iba pang mga isyu," sabi ni Fernandez.

Samantala, sa kanyang keynote na mensahe, sinabi ni Kalihim Roy Cimatu ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ang positibong epekto ng public-private partnership sa pagpapabuti ng mga serbisyo sa tubig at wastewater sa Metro Manila.

Ipinaliwanag din ni Cimatu ang mga pagsisikap ng DENR na maibalik ang dating anyo ng Manila Bay, kinikilala ang pangako ng Maynilad para sa inaambisyong pagsisikap sa paglilinis.

Ang IWA "Efficient 2019" ay nagdala ng magkakasamang mga dalubhasang eksperto sa tubig at mga magagaling na pinuno mula sa mga industriya upang talakayin at ibahagi ang mga solusyon sa



DR. HILDA C. ONG

mga hamon na mapahusay ang pamamahala ng tubig sa lungsod para napapanatili ang pag-unlad.

Ang IWA ay ang pinakamalaking network ng mga propesyonal sa tubig mula sa 130 bansa na may mga programa sa pagbubuo ng pananaliksik at mga proyekto

na nakatuon sa mga solusyon para sa pamamahala ng tubig at wastewater at sa pag-oorganisa ng mga kagapan sa mundo na nagdadala ng pinakabagong agham, teknolohiya at pinakamahusay na kasanayan sa larangan ng tubig sa malaking lugar.



Nasa larawan: Maynilad President at CEO Ramoncito S. Fernandez habang nagsasalita sa mahigit 300 eksperto sa tubig mula sa 27 bansa sa ika-10 na International Water Association (IWA) Conference na ginanap kamakailan sa Pasay City.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1800

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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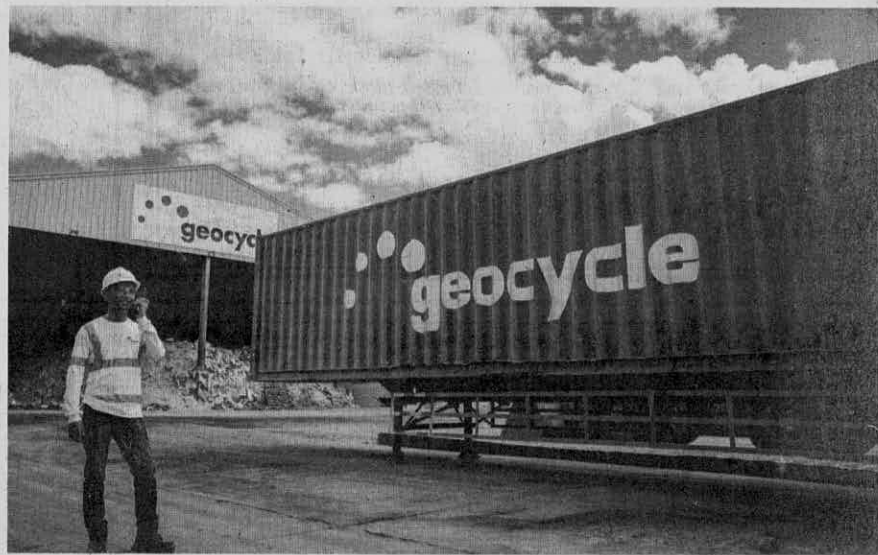
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## Building a better and cleaner future

It's no secret that the Philippines has a problem managing its waste. The National Solid Waste Commission estimates that residential, commercial, and industrial sectors produce 40,000 tons of wastes daily that government agencies are struggling to deal with. This number is expected to further rise as the economy and population grow.

With improperly managed wastes causing an adverse impact on people's health and the environment, various groups have been hard at work to find solutions to this challenge.

Holcim Philippines is among those helping in addressing this issue. Holcim is established as a leading building materials provider, but not many are aware about its waste management unit called



Geocycle that has been providing its services to a number of companies and local governments.

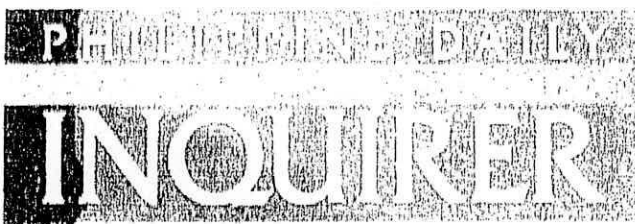
How are waste management and building materials even related?

Making cement requires lots of energy and raw materials. But through the co-processing technology, the company is able to use waste as raw material and a source of energy, to replace natural mineral resources and fossil fuels such as coal, petroleum and

gas. Co-processing helps improve fuel costs, but more importantly it enables the company to conserve natural resources, and of course, contribute to managing wastes in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

While this technology is available and helpful in addressing waste management challenges, it is only part of the solution. It can only co-process a small portion of the waste being generated by the country.





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### **WWF-PH and Hamilo Coast caps Int'l Coastal Cleanup**

The Philippines ranks third in plastic pollution in terms of dumping plastic into our oceans. This is largely caused by an inefficient waste disposal in the country and poor awareness of the problem. Because of this, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines has been closely involved in coastal cleanups and other initiatives around the country to instill the importance of tackling this issue. On its 11th year, Hamilo Coast and WWF-Philippines' partnership now stands firmly on environmental programs aimed at not just ending plastic pollution but also at preserving its surrounding nature. Hamilo Coast, with the help of WWF-Philippines, has successfully conducted its annual coastal cleanup at the two main coves of Hamilo Coast, the Pico de Loro Cove and Santelmo Cove.



## Cutting on eco-friendly items helps save the environment

**MANY people believed that using eco-friendly products could help them reduce their carbon footprint. But experts said otherwise.**

A new theory suggests that we think of our relationship with the environment like a social exchange, leading to the belief that "environmentally friendly" behavior can compensate for "harmful" behavior.

But unlike a social misstep, our environmental footprint cannot be smoothed over.

Researchers said "you can't kiss and make up with the environment".

According to the researchers, it is virtually impossible to keep track of the environmental impact of every one of our actions, so we resort instead to mental 'rules of thumb' to assess our green footprint. The problem, they said, is that these innate, intuitive judgments evolved to deal with social interaction,

where morally righteous and unrighteous decisions can cancel each other out.

Even eco-friendly behavior can be harmful.

The belief in "climate compensation" is nevertheless pervasive. Studies showed that when so-called "eco-friendly" items are added to a set of "conventional" items, people believe the envi-

ronmental impact of the whole set is unchanged, or even reduced.

People might purchase some extra groceries because they are "eco-labeled"; they think that they can justify jetting abroad for vacation because they have been cycling to work; or take longer showers because they've reduced the water temperature. Some

companies also claim to balance greenhouse gas emissions by planting trees for carbon offsets.

Lead author Patrik Sörqvist, Professor of Environmental Psychology at the University of Gävle, Sweden, said the best thing for people to save the environment is to consume less overall. He said "meaner is greener".

(Frontiers)



## Umiwas sa karne, protektahan ang kalikasan ngayong kuwaresma

NI CHRISTINA I. HERMOSO

Kasabay ng pagpapahid ng abo sa noo ng libu-libong Katoliko kahapon bilang hudyat ng pagsisimula ng panahon ng pag-aayuno at pangingilin, hinikayat ng mga lider ng Simbahan ang mga mananampalataya "to shift to a plant-based diet to help protect and preserve the environment."

Ayon kay Rev. Fr. John Leydon,

convenor ng Global Catholic Climate Movement Philippines, ang sakripisyong pag-iwas sa pagkain ng karne ay hindi lamang may ispirituwal na benepisyo, ngunit maganda rin ito para sa kalusugan at sa kapaligiran.

"It also releases harmful greenhouse gases such as Carbon dioxide. The expansion of the meat industry harms Mother Earth,"

pahayag ni Leydon sa *Radio Veritas*.

"Abstinence from meat and shifting to a plant-based diet is a form of renewing ties with the Lord as we help preserve the environment that He created for us. Pope Francis in his *Laudato Si* encyclical reminded us to address the continuous environmental destruction and listen to the cries of the poor," dagdag pa niya.



# Apocalypse

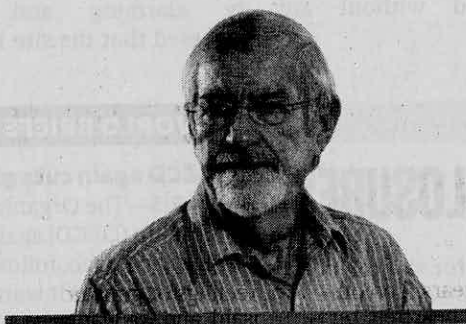
**C**limate change is a myth. I know, because the president of the United States told us so. And he can't be wrong, he's the president of what was once considered the strongest country in the world—a position he is rapidly conceding to China.

The fact that the United States is the second most polluting country in the world in terms of CO2 emissions doesn't seem to bother Trump. Where does he think all that pollution goes? It isn't, he says, something we need to worry about, because it's doing no harm. The scientists are wrong.

Frighteningly, most Filipinos might agree. Mahar Mangahas reported on a survey that found that 43 percent of Filipinos believed "we trust too much in science and not enough in religious faith." The only two other countries in the world that also felt this way were also highly Catholic—Italy and Chile. Is the Catholic Church still denying science?

For Trump's edification, climate change is very real, and is affecting us already. The ice, from the Arctic polar caps to the snows of Kilimanjaro, is melting at a rapid rate. As a result, the sea level is rising. Soon, island nations will be underwater. Our beloved city of Manila will be, too. Manila is no Venice, believe me. Due to the amount of garbage in its waters, you could perform Christ-like miracles (walk on water) in Manila Bay. So I'm glad Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has promised a "Boracay" on Manila Bay. By the way, I'm told Boracay is back to its pristine beauty, so it can be done. Let's do it nationwide: Control, discipline and awareness are all that's needed.

The scary thing is that it wouldn't take much to wipe us out as a race. If big, bad di-



## LIKE IT IS

PETER WALLACE

nosaurus can die out due to one meteor, we can go, too, from a world that's too hot. According to an article published by the National Geographic ("By 2100, deadly heat may threaten majority of humankind," 6/19/17), without major reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases such as CO2, up to three in four people will face the threat of dying from heat by 2100. That's 8.4 billion (yes, that's a "b") dead people from a population estimated at 11.2 billion by 2100. Who will bury them? Maybe the AI robots will do it for us.

Yet this idiot (a foolish or unwise person having the lowest level of intellectual ability) in the White House denies the reality of where the world is heading—and the United States he is in charge of today is one of the greatest culprits leading us to that cliff, with its 15-percent contribution to global warming.

It's not just the heat created by it. Also coming are more violent typhoons; droughts in some places; extensive flooding in others; massive, uncontrollable wildfires; calamities at levels never experi-

enced before. And they will only get worse.

The 2018 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poland failed in its main attempt—to get the world's nations to take the necessary drastic reform. Our world leaders seem to be more concerned with the dollars and cents necessary than the continuation of human life.

If the rich countries of the world don't pour huge amounts into reducing and controlling pollution now, the cost just a few decades from now will be incomparably more as billions die. Half the world's population will be wiped out by temperatures they can't adapt to, holocausts they can't survive in, and pollution that destroys our food sources. This is not fear-mongering; this is the scientists' prediction based on informed assessment.

It's not just the air, but the sea and land, too. There we can help: Dispose of your rubbish responsibly, don't leave truckloads of it behind you after the Black Nazarene procession. Where's your Christian concern for others? Plastic you carelessly throw away is killing the fish you want to eat, but soon won't be able to because your rubbish has killed them.

Stop cutting down trees, plant them. They are a major absorber of CO2 and are relaxing to have around. Our cities need parks; they don't have them. It's time someone decided to put them in.

Boracay's problem was human concern. The Philippines and its waters are mirroring that unconcern, and will become unlivable if you continue not to care. Think before you throw. Look after the only world we have. Think of your children; they'll have to live with what you leave them.

E-mail: wallace\_likeitis@wbf.ph



07 MAR 2019

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## EDITORIAL

### EL NIÑO, TAG-INIT MABAGSIK

NAGBIBITAK-BITAK na ang mga lupang taniman sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa dala ng bagsik ng init ng panahon mula sa El Niño at tag-araw.

Naririyang din ang mga sabay-sabay at sunod-sunod na sunog sa kabundukan ng Cordillera, sa Metro Manila at sa iba pang mga lugar.

Para maprotektahan ang mga pananim, may mga cloud seeding o pagtatanim na ng asin o kemikal sa mga ulap para magkaulan.

Sa mga kalagayang ito, magandang makipag-ugnayan ang mga mamamayan sa mga kinauukulan sa laban sa sunog at sobrang init ng panahon.

Tiyak na makapagbibigay-kaalaman laban sa sunog ang mga bumbero.

Mabisa naman ang pagbubuo ng mga barangay fire brigade na mag-iisip kung paano maghanda laban sa sunog at kung paano lumaban sa aktuwal na sunog.

Pero hindi dapat na ipaubaya ng mga mamamayan ang lahat ng laban sa sunog sa mga bumbero at iba pang mga awtoridad.

Dapat balikatin ng mga mamamayan ang ilang bahagi ng laban sa sunog gaya ng pagtiyak na ligtas ang lahat ng gamit na pang-elektrisidad, pangkusi-na, gadget at iba pa sa loob ng tahanan.

Tiyakin din na walang maglalaro ng apoy mula sa mga bata hanggang sa mga adik na napatunayang pinagmumulan ng mga sunog.

Sa hanay ng mga magtatanim, malaki ang maitutulong ng mga pamahalaang lokal at pambansang ahensya laban sa pagkatuyo ng mga taniman at pagkasira ng mga halaman at mga hayupan sa tindi ng init ng panahon ngayon.

Bukod sa cloudseeding, pupwedeng mag-utos ang mga nasabing awtoridad para sa paggana ng mga patubig o pagkuha ng mga makinaryang pampatubig upang mabuhay ang mga pananim at may maaani para sa pagkain ng bayan.

Sa mga kalunsuran lalo na, kailangan din ang pagtitipid ng paggamit ng tubig para magkasya ang suplay nito para sa lahat.

Kinakailangan lang talaga ang mahigpit na pag-uugnayan, pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan laban sa sunog at tagtuyot.