

DATE : 08 MAR 2019

DAY : Friday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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JG Summit unit adopts Boracay wetland

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

A subsidiary of Gokongwei-led JG Summit Holdings is set to contribute to the continued rehabilitation of Boracay through the revival of its ecosystem and adoption of Wetland No. 8.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and JG Summit Petrochemical Corp. (JGSPC) recently inked a memorandum of agreement to adopt Wetland No. 8, which is located in Barangay Manoc-Manoc.

JGSPC is a leading supplier of innovative world-class petrochemical products and solutions in the Philippines.

Wetland No. 8 is one of the nine wetlands that the private sector will rehabilitate and develop in partnership with the DENR and the Boracay Interagency Task Force.

Among the nine wetlands in Boracay, four have been adopted—Wetland No. 2 by Energy Development Corp., Wetland No. 3 by San Miguel Corp., Wetland No. 4 by Aboitiz Equity Ventures, and Wetland No. 6 by Boracay Tubi System Inc.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said wetlands are among the most neglected and impaired ecosystems despite their importance in regulating natural water flow in the environment.

Cimatu said JG Summit is an ideal partner of the DENR for agreeing to science-based assessments and development plans that are designed to allow the natural flow of water and effluents, as well as restore the wetland's natural vegetation.

Under the agreement, JGSPC will improve and rehabilitate the 1.8-hectare wet-

land eight in three phases.

The first phase entails the conduct of studies on the wetlands, including bathymetric surveys, profiling, and biodiversity assessment.

The results of the studies will be used as bases in the formulation and drafting of a rehabilitation plan, which constitutes the second phase. The plan includes activities that aim to enhance the touristic values of the wetland while maintaining its priority ecological services, such as flooding regulation and water filtration.

The last phase will be the implementation of the rehabilitation plan based on the timing and schedule prescribed by the DENR.

The MOA also tasks the JGSPC with other responsibilities such as prioritizing adjacent local communities for any suitable employment

opportunities and shouldering rehabilitation-related expenses.

For its part, the DENR will provide assistance in the processing or issuance of documentary requirements, including environmental compliance certificate, certificate of non-compliance, other permits and clearances.

The agency will also take the lead in identifying the areas where the studies and rehabilitation plan will be carried out, consolidating and analyzing studies, wetland profiling and management planning, developing information campaign materials, and preparing a sustainability plan that will ensure the sustainability of activities in the rehabilitation area.

The agreement is renewable after its initial effectivity period of three years.



Petrochem company to rehab Boracay wetland

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has signed a memorandum of agreement with Gokongwei-led firm, JG Summit Petrochemical Corp. (JGSPC) for the rehabilitation of Boracay's Wetland No. 8 located in Barangay Manoc-Manoc.

JGSPC is the petrochemical arm of the Gokongweis' JG Summit Holdings.

"Government, on its own, cannot guarantee our natural ecosystems' sustainability. We need partners with the resources and long-term vision to collaborate with us," said Roy Cimatu, DENR secretary.

Cimatu said wetlands are among the most neglected and impaired ecosystems despite their importance in regulating natural water

flow in the environment.

The partnership is part of the Biodiversity Management Bureau's (BMB) Adopt-a-Wetland Program where the private sector commits to rehabilitate and restore wetlands at no cost to the government.

There are nine wetlands in Boracay that have been identified for the program.

Under the MOA, the JGSPC will improve and rehabilitate the 1.8-hectare Wetland No. 8 in three phases.

The first phase will entail the conduct of studies on the wetlands, including bathymetric surveys, profiling and biodiversity assessment.

The results of the studies will then be used as bases in the formulation and drafting of a rehabilitation plan, which constitutes the

second phase.

The plan will include activities that aim to enhance the touristic values of the wetland while maintaining its priority ecological services, such as flooding regulation and water filtration.

Meanwhile, the last phase will be the implementation of the rehabilitation plan based on the timing and schedule prescribed by the DENR.

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DENR NAKAHANAP NG KATUWANG SA REHAB NG BORACAY

NAKAHANAP muli ng katuwang ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa rehabilitasyon ng wetlands na matatagpuan sa kinikilala sa buong mundo na Isla ng Boracay.

Ito ay makaraang lumagda sa memorandum of agreement (MOA) ang DENR at ang JG Summit Petrochemical Corp. (JGSPC) nitong Huwebes (Marso 7) para sa rehabilitas-

yon ng Boracay's Wetland No. 8 na matatagpuan sa Barangay Manoc-Manoc.

Ang JGSPC ay ang nangungunang supplier ng world-class petrochemical products and solutions sa Filipinas na nasa pangangasiwa ng JG Summit Holdings na pagmamay-ari ng mga Gokongwei.

Nagpasalamat naman si Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na naging kinatawan

ng DENR sa paglagda sa MOA, dahil na rin sa ipinakitang suporta ng JGSPC, na itinuring niyang isang positibong hakbang tungo sa biodiversity conservation.

Ayon sa kalihim, ang wetlands ay isa sa mga pinakanapabayaan at napinsalang ecosystems sa kabila ng kanilang kahalagahan sa pagsasaayos ng natural na daloy ng tubig sa kapaligiran.

**BENEDICT
ABAYGAR, JR.**



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Tullahan River rehab

San Miguel Corporation (SMC) president and COO Ramon S. Ang and Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu recently signed a landmark five-year agreement for the rehabilitation and massive cleanup of the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System.

SMC has pledged P1 billion for the project, a crucial component for the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay. The diversified conglomerate has been intensifying its corporate social responsibility and sustainability initiatives the past few years as it cut its "non-product" water consumption by 23 percent, past the threshold set in 2020 under the "Water For All" project and also discontinued its plastic bottled water business.



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TULLAHAN RIVER REHABILITATION.

San Miguel Corp. president and chief operating officer Ramon Ang (right) and Environment Ssecretary Roy Cimatu sign a landmark five-year agreement for the rehabilitation and massive cleanup of the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System. SMC pledged P1 billion for the project, a crucial component of the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.





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NILAGDAAN nina San Miguel Corporation (SMC) President at COO Ramon S. Ang at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu kama-kailan ang isang kasunduan para malinis ang Tullahan-Tinajeros River System sa loob ng limang taon. Naglaan ang San Miguel Corporation ng isang bilyong piso para sa proyektong ito kung saan nakasalalay rin ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay. Abala ang San Miguel sa mga proyekto na may kinalaman sa Corporate Social Responsibility at Sustainability. Kasama rito ang 'Water for All' project kung saan binawasan na ng kompanya ng 23 porsiyento ang paggamit ng tubig, lagpas na sa 20 porsiyento na itinakda nito sa taong 2020. Dagdag pa rito ang paglisan nito sa negosyo ng plastic bottled water.

SMC, DENR SANIB-PUWERSA SA MANILA BAY REHAB

POSITIBO ang pananaw ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pakikipagtulungan ng San Miguel Corporation (SMC) sa paglilinis ng Tullahan-Tinajeros River System, isa sa mga ilog na nagpaparumi sa Manila Bay.

Sa nilagdaang memorandum of agreement (MOA), magiging katuwang ng DENR ang SMC sa ilalim ng Adopt-A-River program ng ahensiya upang maipatupad ang inilabas ng mandamus ng Supreme Court (SC) para sa Manila Bay clean up.

Nilagdaan nina DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu at SMC president at COO Ramon S. Ang ang MOA sa DENR central office sa Quezon City kung saan ay nagpasalamat ang kailahim sa suportang ibinibigay ng naturang kompanya upang mabawasan ang polusyon sa ilog.

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; at para sa agrikultura, irigasyon at livestock watering.

Napag-alaman na ang 59-km Tullahan-Tinajeros River System na nagsisimula sa La Mesa Dam sa Quezon City at dumadaloy patungo sa Centennial Park sa Navotas na bahagi ng Manila Bay ay isa sa pinakamaruming daluyan ng tubig patungo sa naturang baybayin.

Nangako ang SMC ng P1 billion tulong para hukayin at linisin ang river system, kabilang na rito ang pagbili ng backhoes, cranes na may claw, dump trucks, barges at langis.

Nakapaloob sa MOA na sumasang-ayon ang dalawang partido para sa pagpapatupad ng malawakang programa para mabawasan ang polusyon sa river system. Makikipag-ugnayan din ang bawat isa at tutulong para sa pagpapalano at implementasyon ng Tullahan-Tinajeros River System: Adopt-A-River Program.

BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.



SMC, DENR para sa mas magandang Ilog Tullahan

*Pinirma-
han nina San
Miguel Corpo-
ration (SMC)
president at
COO Ramon
S. Ang at ni
Department of
Environment
and Natural
Resources
(DENR) sec-
retary Roy*



*Cinatu kamakailan ang isang kasunduan para mali-
nis ang Tullahan-Tinajeros River System sa loob ng
limang taon. Naglaan ang San Miguel Corporation ng
isang bilyong piso para sa proyektong ito kung saan
nakasalalay rin ang paglilinis sa Look ng Maynila o
Manila Bay. Abala ang San Miguel sa mga proyekto
na may kinalaman sa Corporate Social Responsibi-
lity at sustainability. Kasama rito ang "Water for All"
project kung saan binawasan na ng kumpanya ng 23
porsiyento ang paggamit ng tubig, lampas na sa 20 por-
siyento na itinakda nito sa taong 2020. Dagdag pa rito
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Antipolo lauded in Manila Bay clean-up

By Neil Alcober

The city government of Antipolo earned an excellent performance rating from the Department of Interior and Local Government as partner local government unit in the implementation of Manila Bay clean-up, rehabilitation and preservation program.

The city government almost gets a 100 percent in the parameters of Manila Bay clean-up, rehabilitation and preservation program.

It received a high compliance

grade of 92.31 percent for its active participation in the project because of its creek cleaning and materials recovery facilities programs.

Mayor Casimiro "Jun" Ynares credited the city's high compliance rating to their comprehensive environment-centered programs.

"This recognition was a reminder that the Manila Bay rehabilitation is a continuing initiative to protect our environment for our future generation," Ynares said.

"With or without recognition, our city will be steadfast in our objective of restoring and maintaining the beauty of our environment and natural resources," he added.

The city government almost gets a 100 percent in the parameters of Manila Bay clean-up, rehabilitation and preservation program.

The categories include liquid waste management, informal settler families, solid waste management, institutional arrangements, information, education and communication campaign.

The city already earned the Hall of Fame award in 2018 for its sustainable and environmentally-centered programs.



'Life below water' tuon ng World Wildlife Day

NANANAWAGAN ang Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa lahat ng sektor na higit pang tumulong sa pag-aalaga ng wildlife sa bansa at pagprotekta nito mula sa ilegal na bentahan, pagkasira ng kalikasan at iba pang banta.

"Humans, being the highest form of life, are tasked to protect, conserve and properly manage other forms of life," pahayag ni BMB Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez nitong Martes, sa pagdiriwang ng 2019 World Wildlife Day (WWD) sa Quezon City.

Aniya, anumang pagkasira o pagkawala ng halaman at mga hayop ay may kaakibat na epekto sa biodiversity at ecosystem na nagbibigay ng pagkain, hilaw na materyales, proteksiyon mula sa anumang element, at iba pang benepisyo.

Bahagi naman ng pagdiriwang ang pagbibigay ng Wildlife Law Enforcement Award, ang taunang opisyal na pagkilala ng BMB at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa mga sektor at samahang may mahalagang ambag sa pagpapatupad ng batas at panuntunan sa wildlife.

Magangunahan nina Rodriguez, DENR Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon at USAID project representative Randy Vinluan ang pagbibigay ng karangalan ngayong taon para sa 44 na tauhan ng Bureau of Customs (14 awardees), National Bureau of Investigation (21 awardees), Philippine National Police (anim na awardees), Department of Agriculture (isang awardee), at probinsiya ng Cebu (dalawang awardees).

"Wildlife law enforcement isn't just the work of DENR but of different agencies as well," pahayag ni Calderon.

Ang sama-samang aksiyon ay mahalaga lalo't ang illegal wildlife trafficking ay isang multi-million dollar na aktibidad na kinasasangkutan ng ipinagbabawal na kalakalan na nagaganap sa mga border ng bansa, aniya.

Kabilang sa mga napagtagumpayan ng mga kinilala ngayong taon ang pagkakaaresto ng 15 wildlife crime perpetrators, gayundin ang pagkakakumpiska ng 2,214 na iba't ibang klase ng wildlife, 3,400 plant pieces at higit 115 kilo ng hilaw at lutong kame ng marine turtle na nagkakahalaga ng halos P57 milyon, pagbabahagi ng BMB.

Nakatulong din umano ang operasyon ng mga awardees sa pagsasampa ng pitong kaso laban sa 15 suspek kung saan naresolba na ang isa.

Nasa 365 matao na ang nakatanggap ng Wildlife Law Enforcement Award sa nakalipas na limang taon, ayon pa sa BMB.

Buod sa pagiging isa sa Sustainable Development Goals, ang 'Life below water: for people and planet' temang taon ng taunang WWD.

Kay Rodriguez, ito ang unang pagkakataon na tumuon ang WWD sa mga lamang-dagat.

The celebration underscores importance and value of marine wildlife to our day-to-day lives," aniya.

Ang ilegal, walang permiso at walang regulasyong pangingsda at iba pang aktibidad ng tao ang ilan sa mga banta sa Philippine marine species, giit niya.

"Life below water now faces danger," paalala niya.



BW FILE

WESTERN VISAYAS: ILOILO CITY Iloilo City to undertake coastal rehabilitation program

THE ILOILO City government, inspired by the rehabilitation initiatives in Boracay and Manila Bay, is launching its own coastal cleanup in 26 villages stretching from Barangays Bitoon, Jaro to Santo Niño Sur, Arevalo. Mayor Jose S. Espinosa III said earlier this week that he already gave initial directives to environment specialists, private stakeholders, international agencies, and the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) during a meeting with the Iloilo-Batiano River Development Council. "During the meeting with the Iloilo-Batiano River Development Council, we also issued a directive and we have gathered aerial photos showing the sorry state of the coastal areas," he said. "I can remember the times before that we can still swim in our coastal waters but now it is not safe. If Boracay and Manila Bay can be cleaned, why can't we clean our coastal treasures here in the city. We have witnessed how they did it, so we now, we are doing it here," the mayor said. A task force will be created to take charge and monitor the clean-up implementation after he issues an executive order. CENRO head Noel Z. Hechanova said the program would only target solid wastes, which contributes to about 10%-15% of the pollution load in the coastal waters.

"This is the tip of the iceberg because the solid waste only contributes around 10 to 15 (percent) in the pollution load, the rest is generated by waste waters from the comfort rooms," he said. Mr. Hechanova emphasized the need to have proper and well-maintained septic tanks. "Once you have septic tanks, any bodies of water will be really affected. Since 2006, we have been campaigning to clean septic tanks regularly. It should also be constructed correctly," he said. — **Emme Rose S. Santilagudo**



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2021 OPENING

P2-B SEWAGE PLANT TO RISE IN LAS PIÑAS CITY

By Ronnel W. Domingo
@RonWDomingoINQ

Maynilad Water Services Inc. said on Thursday that it had broken ground for a P2-billion sewage treatment plant in Las Piñas City as part of its efforts to comply with environmental laws.

Scheduled for completion in 2021, the facility dubbed the Las Piñas Water Reclamation Facility will be Maynilad's largest sewage treatment plant in terms of capacity, at about 88 million liters of wastewater per day.

The project will use anaerobic/anoxic/oxic technology to remove pollutants from wastewater to be collected from about 600,000 customers in 20 barangays in the city before its discharge to the Zapote River, which eventually flows out to Manila Bay.

This sewage treatment plant "will further boost (our) sewerage coverage expansion, in line with efforts to reduce pollution loading in the Manila Bay," Maynilad said in a statement.

The plant is located on a 2.25-hectare lot on Alabang-Zapote Road in Barangay Pamplona Uno.

Since taking over the west zone concession area of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Maynilad's investments has enabled the company to increase sewerage coverage from only 6 percent in 2007 to 20 percent by end of 2018. It intends to achieve full coverage by the end of the concession period in 2037.

Maynilad is also building additional wastewater treatment facilities in Valenzuela and Cavite City as well as Tunasan and Cupang in Muntinupa. INQ



Water concessionaire breaks ground on P2B sewage treatment facility

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. broke ground to construct a P2.05-billion sewage treatment plant (STP) in Las Piñas that will further boost sewerage coverage and reduce pollution loading in the Manila Bay.

The Manila west zone water concessionaire said the Las Piñas Water Reclamation Facility is expected to be completed by 2021 and will be its largest STP in terms of capacity, treating about 88 million liters of wastewater per day.

Maynilad said it will utilize anaerobic/anoxic/oxic technology to remove pollutants from wastewater to be collected from about 600,000 Maynilad customers in 20 barangays in Las Piñas City before its discharge to the Zapote River, which eventually flows out to Manila Bay.

The facility is also designed to comply with water quality guidelines and general effluent standards of 2016 – a standard mandated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Earlier this year, Maynilad earmarked as much as P100 billion for its capital expenditures (capex) in five years.

Ramoncito Fernandez, Maynilad president and chief executive of-

ficer, had said bulk of the capex, equivalent to roughly P40 billion, will be allocated for the construction of wastewater treatment plants and conveyance composed of sewerage pipes.

“The remaining will be for water treatment plants and reservoir to improve pressure as well as pipe replacement to lower non-revenue water plus the automation efforts,” he said.

For this year alone, the company will hike its spending to a total of P17 billion, compared to last year’s more than P10 billion. Of the amount, P11.4 billion will be used for wastewater management efforts.

Fernandez said the capex will be funded through a mix of internally generated funds and loans.

The company said in five years, new STPs will be put up in Caloocan, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and in Kawit, Cavite which will have a combined treatment capacity of 320 million liters per day.

Maynilad is owned and managed by Maynilad Water Holdings Co. Inc., a joint venture between Metro Pacific Investments Corp., DMCI Holdings Inc. and Marubeni Corp.

It is the largest private water concessionaire in the Philippines in terms of customer base, cover-



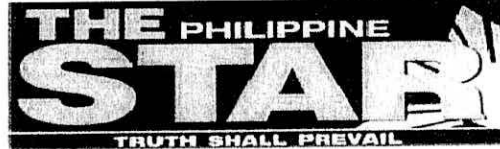
Present to lead the groundbreaking for the Las Piñas Water Reclamation Facility were (from left) April Aguilar (representing Las Piñas City Mayor Imelda Aguilar), Fernandez, Megawide Construction Corp. deputy head of Construction Group Frederick Tan, Las Piñas City Councilor Mark Anthony Santos, Maynilad chief operating officer Randolph Estrellado, program management head Yolanda Lucas, and wastewater management head Antonio Garcia.

ing the cities of Manila, Quezon City, Makati, Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon;

and the cities of Cavite, Bacoor and Imus and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario that are all in Cavite.



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Maynilad putting up P2-B sewage plant

West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. has started the construction of its P2.05-billion sewage treatment plant, expected to be its largest facility in terms of capacity.

The Pangilinan-led water company recently broke ground on the Las Piñas water reclamation facility that will further boost its sewerage coverage expansion. This is in line with the group's effort to reduce pollution loading in the Manila Bay.

The Las Piñas facility is the newest project of Maynilad that is de-

erate the improvement and expansion of its water and wastewater services.

This year alone, Maynilad is spending P17 billion, higher than the P10 billion it invested in 2018.

A huge portion of Maynilad's capex will be used to build new sewage treatment plants and lay sewer lines in various parts of Caloocan, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and Cavite.

The facilities are expected to expand the water company's sewerage coverage to 47 percent.



Maynilad

signed to comply with water quality guidelines and general effluent standards of 2016, a standard mandated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Once completed in 2021, it will be Maynilad's largest sewage treatment plant in terms of capacity, treating about 88 million liters of wastewater per day.

The facility will use anaerobic-anoxic-oxic technology to remove pollutants from wastewater to be collected from about 600,000 Maynilad customers in 20 barangays in Las Piñas before its discharge to the Zapote River, which eventually flows out to the Manila Bay.

Maynilad is pouring in P100 billion over the next five years to accel-

Maynilad currently operates 19 STPs, two sewage and septage treatment plants and one septage treatment plant with a combined treatment capacity of 662,000 cubic meters of wastewater per day.

Maynilad is the largest private water concessionaire in the country in terms of customer base. It serves the areas of Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Malabon, and certain portions of Manila, Quezon City, Makati and Cavite.

It is owned and managed by Maynilad Water Holdings Co. Inc., a joint venture between Metro Pacific Investments Corp., DMCI Holdings and Marubeni Corp. — **Louise Maureen Simeon**



Maynilad to build another STP in Las Piñas

WEST Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. (Maynilad) recently broke ground to construct another sewage treatment plant (STP) that will further boost its sewerage-coverage expansion, in line with efforts to reduce pollution loading in the Manila Bay.

The Las Piñas Water Reclamation Facility is the newest project of Maynilad designed to comply with Water Quality Guidelines and General Effluent Standards of 2016 (DAO 2016-08)—a standard mandated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The facility

is located on a 2.25-hectare lot along Alabang-Zapote Road, Barangay Pamplona Uno, Las Piñas City.

Once completed in 2021, it will be Maynilad's largest sewage treatment plant in terms of capacity, treating about 88 million liters of wastewater per day.

The P2.05-billion facility will use anaerobic, anoxic, oxic (A2O) technology to remove pollutants from wastewater to be collected from about 600,000 Maynilad customers in 20 barangays in Las Piñas City before its discharge to the Zapote River, which eventually flows out to Manila Bay.

Present to lead the groundbreaking for the Las Piñas Water Reclamation Facility were April Aguilar (representing Las Piñas City Mayor Imelda Aguilar); Maynilad President and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez; Megawide Construction Corp. Depu-

ty Head of Construction Group Frederick Tan; Las Piñas City Councilor Mark Anthony Santos; Maynilad's Chief Operating Officer Randolph Estrellado; Program Management Head Yolanda Lucas; and Wastewater Management Head Antonio Garcia.



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Avert water shortage, use supply wisely—MWSS

THE Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System has cautioned consumers to use water wisely and support efforts to ensure ample supply amid the onset of El Niño in the Philippines.

According to PAGASA, this year may be the warmest year in record because of El Niño, which is expected to impact on at least 22 provinces.

While there is enough water supply for its consumers, MWSS Administrator Reynaldo V. Velasco called on everyone to save water and help cushion water shortage as El Niño has varying impacts such as delayed onset of rainy season.

“Since we primarily source our water from Angat-Ipo-La Mesa water system, we have to do our share to help lessen the effect of El Niño not only on our need for water in

our households and industries but also on agriculture,” Velasco said. As a rule, discharge for potable water supply becomes the priority during drought events, reducing water releases for agricultural irrigation and power generation.

Water from Angat passes through Ipo Dam where it is then released to La Mesa Dam. La Mesa Dam has a 47-cubic-meter-per-second (cms) allocation of water from Angat Dam, higher than the 44 cms the government normally earmarks for La Mesa Dam during the dry season.

The water level at La Mesa is recorded below normal level and has prompted calls for water conservation from concerned sectors to maintain water reserve availability. As of March 5, its reservoir water level is 69.47 meters, down from its normal high

water level of 80.15 meters. With the onset of the dry season, and the increasing demand from burgeoning population has contributed to the decline in water level. This does not mean, however, that a water shortage looms in the horizon for residents of Metro Manila and neighboring provinces unless there is disregard for water conservation until the rainy months set in.

Velasco said MWSS has its water security plan for 2018 to 2023 in place, with the goal of easing the strain on the Angat-Ipo-La-Mesa water system and ensuring water supply during El Niño.

This stop-gap measure consists of the A-B-C projects and Wawa Dam Project of the consortium of Enrique Razon and Oscar Violago, pending the completion of the Kaliwa Dam, Velasco said.



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Better water management sought amid drought

By HELEN FLORES

The private sector-led Movement for Water Security has called for public-private partnerships for better water management in the country amid the worsening drought due to El Niño.

Ernesto Ordoñez, the group's national coordinator, said the private sector, including non-government organizations, has the resources, manpower and even expertise that can be mobilized to avert a looming water crisis predicted by experts.

"Water is non-existent. It's not in the radar (of the government)," he told "The Chiefs" on Cignal TV's *One News* on Wednesday night.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) had warned of an extended dry season due to El Niño that may result in lower water supplies.

Up to 22 provinces are ex-

pected to be hit by drought by April, according to PAGASA.

The water level at La Mesa Dam in Quezon City, which supplies most of Metro Manila's water, continued to decrease due to lack of rain.

Ordoñez said they are advising the public to conserve and store water, including the use of water dipper and pail instead of the shower while taking a bath.

With regard to water harvesting, he noted that the rain catchment facility being provided to local farmers is very expensive.

The Philippines has only four percent rain harvesting, while countries like India have 60 percent in certain areas, the group said.

The movement added that rain harvesting is included in the Green Building Code, but is hardly implemented.

Meanwhile, Ordoñez lauded the Duterte government for its efforts to improve the water quality of Boracay Island and Manila Bay.



Water level in dams decreasing

By **ALEXANDRIA DENNISE SAN JUAN**

While dry spell and drought are hitting some provinces due to a weak El Niño phenomenon, water level in dams supplying in Metro Manila is also decreasing.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) hydrologist Jason Bausa said Thursday that the water level at the La Mesa dam in Quezon City is now at critical level.

According to Bausa, as of 6 a.m. yesterday, the reservoir water level in La Mesa dam dipped to 69.25 meters from the recorded 69.35 meters on Wednesday.

The latest water level of the La Mesa dam is at least 10.90 meters low from 80.15 meters, its normal high water level, and close to the very critical level of 69 meters.

In a data from PAGASA, it also showed that this is, so far, the lowest water level recorded at the La Mesa Dam within three years.

In an interview with Bausa, he said that while the water level at the La Mesa Dam continues to decline, the Angat Dam in Bulacan is still able to supply water to it.

“Nasa low water level po ang La Mesa Dam, critical level na po, pero nasupplyan po ito ng Angat [Dam] kaya naffill-up po nito yung mga kailangan,” he explained.

However, Bausa bared that the water level in Angat Dam is already below its normal high water level.

On Thursday morning, PAGASA’s Hydro-meteorological Division noted that Angat Dam’s water level is already at 201.89 meters from the 202.30 meters recorded on Wednesday.

The current water level in Angat Dam is at least 8.11 meters lower than its normal level of 210 meters.

This is also slightly higher than the 180 meters critical level of Angat Dam but Bausa said that the state weather bureau is expecting that it might reach the critical level in May if the dry spell is prolonged.

“Around May baka doon po umabot ng 180 meters ang level ng Angat Dam. Mga first week to second week of May, kung tuluy-tuloy ang tag-init,” he said.

PAGASA earlier said that the country is currently experiencing a weak El Niño since the last quarter of 2018.

Below normal rainfall is expected across the country while dry spell and drought will hit some provinces until June or before the rainy season begins.



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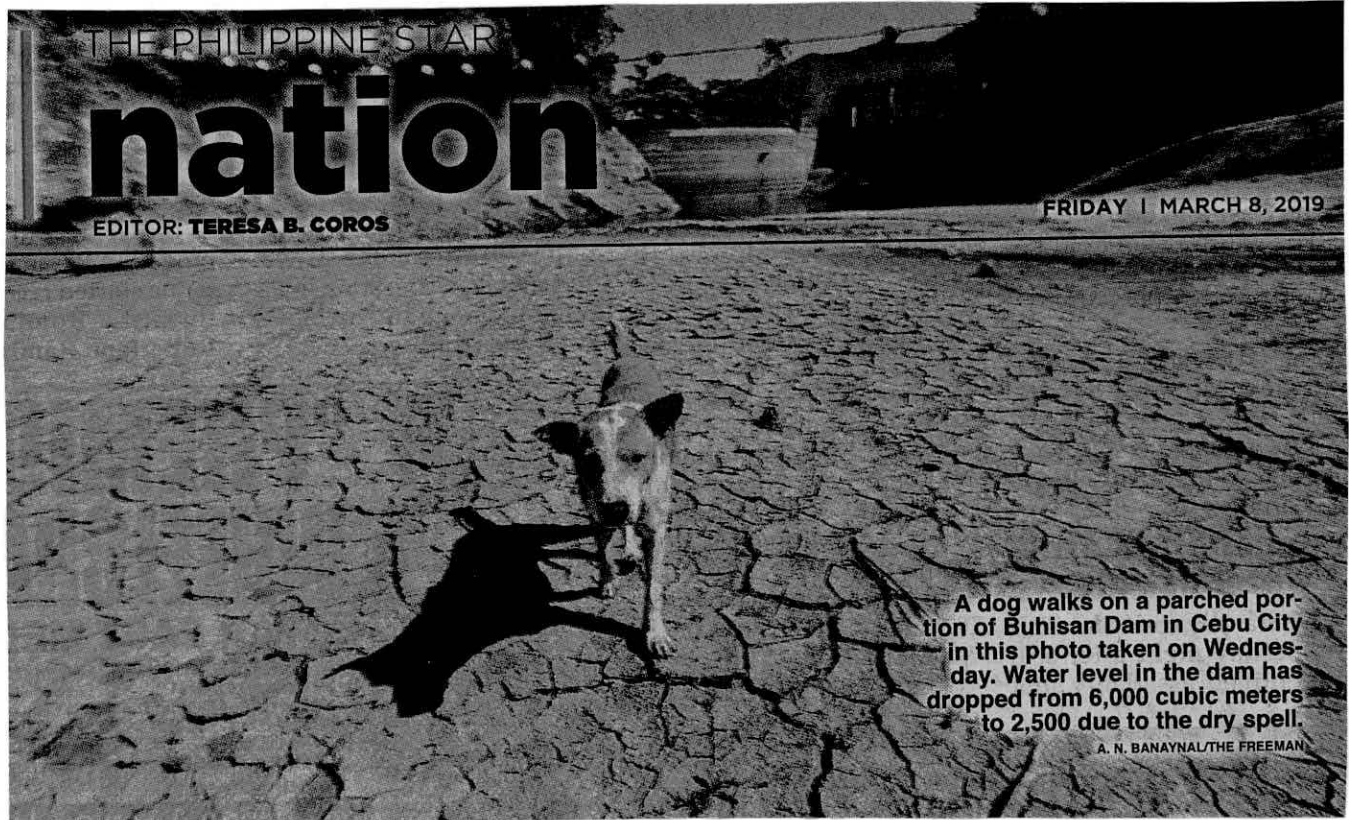
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THE PHILIPPINE STAR
nation

EDITOR: TERESA B. COROS

FRIDAY | MARCH 8, 2019

A dog walks on a parched portion of Buhisan Dam in Cebu City in this photo taken on Wednesday. Water level in the dam has dropped from 6,000 cubic meters to 2,500 due to the dry spell.

A. N. BANAYNAL/THE FREEMAN



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DAM DRYING UP – Searing temperatures **have begun** to dry up the **Buhisan Dam** in Cebu City, resulting in reduced electricity service and low water pressure in elevated areas in the city. The reservoir, which normally delivers 6,000 cubic meters of water to the city every day, can now only manage 1,000 cubic meters a day. (Juan Carlo de Vela)





ANGAT DAM PANGUNAHING MAPAGKUKUNAN NG TUBIG SA METRO MANILA

ANG Executive Director ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na si Seville D. David Jr., ay sumali sa 7th WaterLinks Forum, na may temang "Solving Asia's Urban Water Crisis: The Water-Food-Energy-Climate Change Nexus", na ginanap sa Unilab Bayanihan Center, Metro Manila.

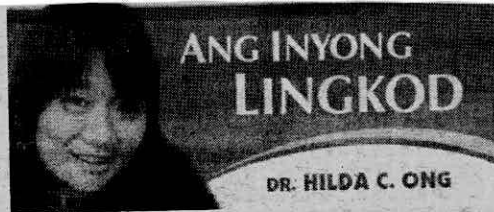
Sa panahon ng parallel discussion, inilahad ni Director David ang paksang, "Water for Food and Municipal use: Ang kaso ng Angat Multipurpose Dam."

Noong 1968 naisagawa ang dam kaya nasa mahigit limampu't taon na ngayon. Dati-rati, kakaunti lang ang mga establishment, industriya at mga taong naninira-han sa Metro Manila, iilan lang ang kumokonsumo ng tubig na nanggagaling sa Angat Dam kaya sapat ang tubig kahit sa panahon ng tag-init.

Ipinaliwanag ni Executive Director David na pinatunayan ng Angat Dam na

ang konsepto ng koneksyon ng tubig-pagkain-enerhiya-klima koneksyon. Ang dam ay ang pangunahing mapagkukunan ng tubig sa Metro Manila na nagbibigay ng 96% ng mga kinakailangan nito sa tubig, na nagpapatatag ng mga 27,000 ektarya ng bukiran sa mga lalawigan ng Bulacan at Pampanga, na bumubuo ng haydroelektriko na kapangyarihan para sa Luzon grid at nagsisilbing kontrol sa baha sa mga downstream na bayan.

"Habang ang epekto ng klima ay nakakaapekto sa kanilang mga serbisyo sa tubig, dapat nating higitan pa ang agham o teknolohikal na bahagi sa pag-optimize ng ating mga mapagkukunan ng tubig," sabi ni Direktor David sa kanyang presentasyon.



DR. HILDA C. ONG

Binanggit din niya na ang paggamit ng teknolohiya, mga digital na data at mga tamang modelo ay napakahalaga sa paghahanap ng mga posibleng solusyon upang malutas ang krisis sa tubig ng lungsod.

Ang forum ay binubuo ng limang (5) plenaryo na presentasyon, dalawa (2) parallel session at isang eksibisyon. Ang mga delegado ay ipinakilala at inanyayahang sumali sa United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization-International Hydraulics Program (UNESCO-IHP), ang tanging intergovernmental program ng sistema ng UN na nakatuon sa pananaliksik sa tubig,

pamamahala ng mapagkukunan ng tubig, at edukasyon at kapasidad na pagtatayo.

Ito ay dinaluhan ng mahigit sa 200 mga kalahok na binubuo ng mga institutional water operator at mga lider ng industriya mula sa higit sa 20 bansa, technical architects, data scientists at storage/infrastructure managers mula sa malawak na hanay ng mga negosyo sa Pilipinas. Ipinakita rin ng trade exhibit ang ilan sa mga pinakabagong teknolohiya sa pamamahala ng tubig at wastewater at nagpapakita ng kanilang mga produkto at serbisyo ng higit sa isang dosenang exhibitors at kasesosyo.





BULGAR

BOSES ng PINOY, MATA ng BAYAN



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Epekto ng tagtuyot dapat nang paghandaan

RAMDAM na ang mainit na panahon.
Kani-kanyang diskarte na rin kung paano makasabay sa init at tagtuyot.

Kung saan halos kalahati sa kabuuang bilang ng mga lalawigan sa bansa ay nakararanas na ng dry spell.

Ayon sa PAGASA, nadagdagan pa ng limang probinsiya ang nakararanas ng drought o prolong dry spell. Kinabibilangan ito ng Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro at Palawan.

Bukod pa ito sa ilang probinsiya sa Mindanao na nakararanas din ng tagtuyot — Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Sur, Sulu at Maguindanao.

Inaasahang bago matapos ang Marso, maaaring madagdagan pa ang mga lugar na nakararanas ng tagtuyot.

Sa pagtaya, posibleng maapektuhan ng dry spell ang nasa 41 probinsiya, 25 sa Luzon, 11 sa Visayas at lima sa Mindanao.

Umaasa naman tayo na hindi ito magdudulot ng matinding pinsala sa sakahan at maging sa mga palaisdaan.

Kasabay nito ang panawagan sa gobyerno na alalayan ang ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda upang hindi malagay sa alanganin sa ganitong panahon.

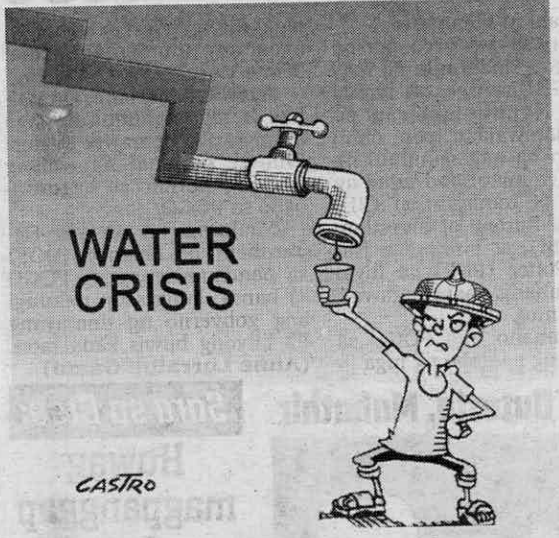


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WATER CRISIS

CASTRO

Krisis sa tubig

Hindi pa opisyal na pumapasok ang tag-init, ramdam na ang napakainit na singaw ng lupa. Ang lalong nakakaalarma ay ang balitang lumalapit na sa critical level ang La Mesa Dam, isa sa malalaking reservoir na pinagkukunan ng supply ng tubig ng Metro Manila. Sa deretsa-hang salita, sumasadsad ang level ng tubig sa La Mesa Dam.

Isa sa dalawang water concessionaire ng MWSS ang mapupuruhan ng problemang ito, ang Manila Water.

Sa ulat kamakalawa nang gabi, partikular daw sa unang makakaramdam ng pagnipis ng water supply ng Manila Water ang mga lungsod ng Pasig at Marikina at ang bayan ng Antipolo sa Rizal.

Mukhang hindi malayong malimita ang pagdaloy ng tubig sa gripo ng mga kabahayang sinusuplayan ng Manila Water sa darating na mga linggo.

Masamang balita 'yan. Sana lang, yaman din lang na maagang nakita ang paparating na krisis sa tubig ay latagan na agad ito ng remedyo.

Dapat ay maagang ibusina ang babala sa mga apektadong lugar at ianunsyo na ang mga dapat gawin para hindi mabigla ang mga residente kapag nangyari ang kinatatakutan.



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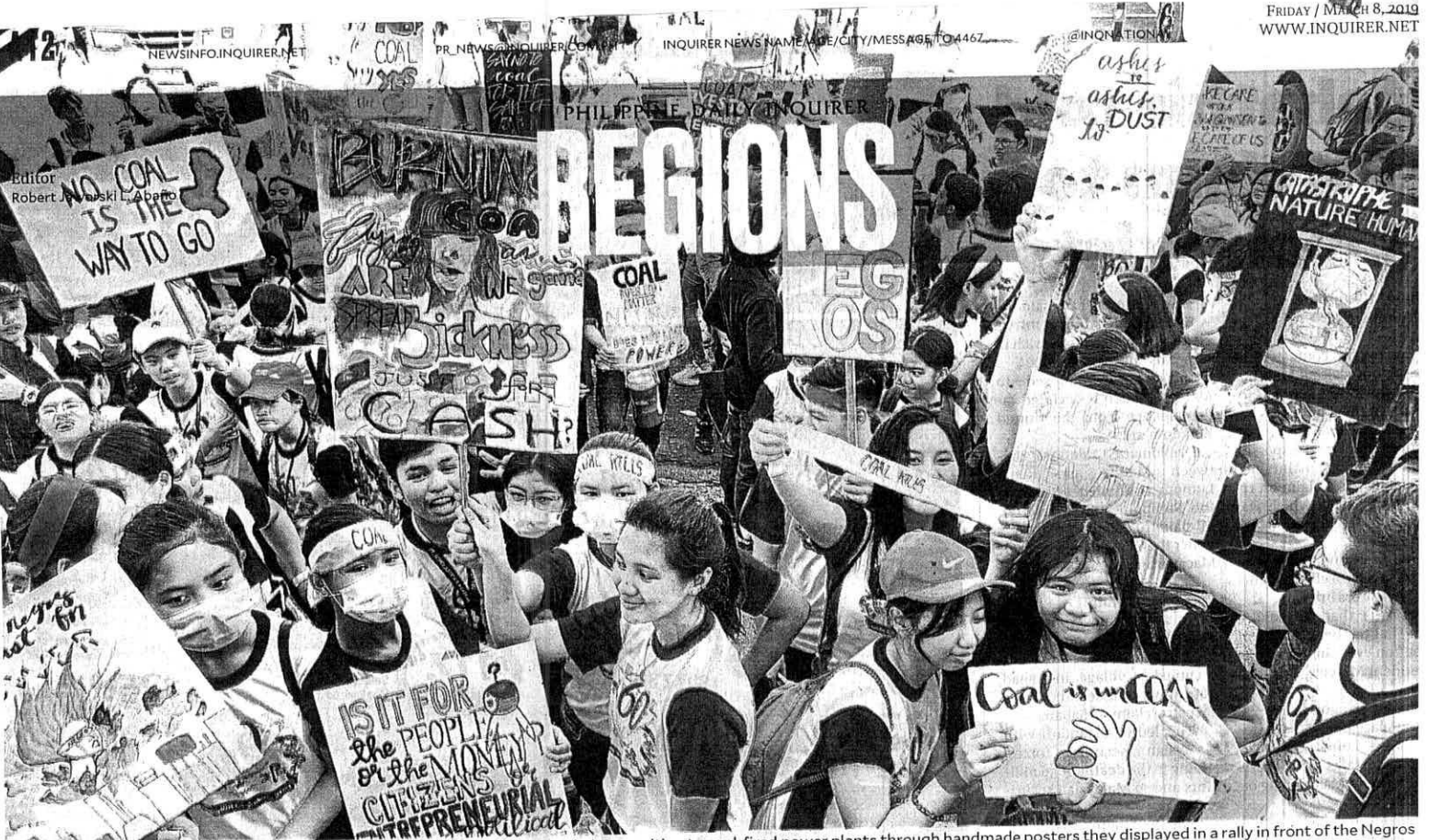
REGIONS

Negros Occidental declared coal-free

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Island is now coal-free after Negros Occidental Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr. banned the construction of coal-fired power plants in the province. His predecessor, Roel Degamo, issued a similar order last year. Catholic Church officials in the two Negros provinces welcomed the declaration and called on Negrenses to do their part in keeping the island clean and green. —STORY BY CARLA P. GOMEZ

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YOUTH VOICE Students of St. Scholastica's Academy in Bacolod City voice their opposition to coal-fired power plants through handmade posters they displayed in a rally in front of the Negros Occidental provincial capitol. —RONNIE BALDONADO/CONTRIBUTOR



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Gov declares Negros Occidental coal-free

Marañon seeks prov'l board support as bishop lauds EO pushing clean energy

By **Carla P. Gomez**
@carlagomezINQ

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Occidental Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr. issued an executive order (EO) on Wednesday declaring Negros Occidental coal-free, saying this was a necessary step so the province could contribute in easing the impact of climate change.

"The province of Negros Occidental will continue to pursue clean and renewable energy projects and oppose the establishment of any coal-fired power plant," Marañon said in Executive Order No. 19-08.

Through the EO, the governor asked the provincial board to pass an ordinance that would oppose any move to put up a coal-fired power plant in any part of the province.

Damage to environment

"Climate change is already wreaking havoc on weather conditions with devastating effects. We need to act now to prevent further damage by banning coal plants in Negros," Marañon said.

He said more countries had been decommissioning their coal-fired power plants due to the damage these bring to the environment.

The EO was issued amid

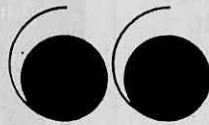
plans of SMC Global Power Holdings Corp. to build a 300-megawatt circulating fluidized bed coal-fired power plant in San Carlos City.

The provincial board, however, has yet to act on Marañon's request.

On Wednesday, about 2,000

protestors, mostly students, gathered in front of the provincial capitol in Bacolod City to call on the board to ban coal plants in the province.

Last year, Negros Oriental Gov. Roel Degamo issued an EO banning coal-fired power plants in his province.



Climate change is already wreaking havoc on weather conditions with devastating effects. We need to act now to prevent further damage by banning coal plants in Negros

Alfredo Marañon Jr.
Negros Occidental Governor



"Both governors of Negros Island have declared [the island] coal-free. We hope we, citizens, continue to be vigilant and do our part to keep the whole Negros clean and green," San Carlos Bishop Gerardo Alminaza said.

Alminaza and the three other bishops of Negros Island last year issued a joint pastoral statement opposing the construction of a coal-fired power plant in San Carlos City.

Green projects

The San Carlos bishop said he was grateful for Marañon's declaration and hoped that the board would support it.

Marañon, through the EO, created a Provincial Renewable Energy Council (PREC), which would formulate measures encouraging renewable energy programs for a greener and energy-sufficient province.

The PREC will be chaired by the governor and cochaired by the provincial board's committee chair on energy.

The council will recommend renewable energy programs, facilitate their implementation and ensure that these conform with the Renewable Energy Act of 2008. It is also tasked to monitor projects contrary to Marañon's executive order. INQ

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Neg Occ bans coal-fired plant

By **TARA YAP**

ILOILO CITY — The Negros Occidental government has officially banned the building of any coal-fired power plant in the province.

In Executive Order No. 19-08 issued last Wednesday, Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr. declared the “province of Negros Occidental shall continue to pursue clean and renewable energy projects while opposing the entry or establishment of any coal-fired power plant.”

The order formalized the proposal of Marañon, who originally urged provincial board late last year to pass an ordinance banning coal-fuelled plants. The draft only passed during the first reading.

A known environmental advocate, Marañon joined the religious and private groups in opposing the 300-megawatt (MW) coal-fired plant the

SMC Global Power Holdings Corp., a subsidiary of San Miguel Corp., wants to build in San Carlos City.

Negros Occidental is recognized as the country’s solar power capital, being host to the 132.5-MW power plant in Cadiz City said to be one of the biggest solar energy projects in Southeast Asia.

Still, many power distributors in Negros Occidental source its electricity from other areas including the two coal-fired plants in the city and province of Iloilo.

The Climate Reality Project of the Philippines welcomed Marañon’s decision.

“It is our hope that Negros Occidental serves as a model for others to break free from coal and commit to the fight in solving the climate change crisis,” the environmental group said in a statement.



Climate Reality Project lauds Negros Occidental's decision to ban coal-fired power generation projects

THE Climate Reality Project has commended the Negros Occidental local government's "bold step toward a greener, sustainable future" after declaring the province as a coal-free area.

Gov. Alfredo C. Marañon Jr., has recently signed a provincial order that

made Negros Occidental the newest "coal-free" province in the Philippines.

Negros Occidental, located in the Western Visayas region, occupies the northwestern half of the large island of Negros, the other being Negros Oriental.

Known as the "Sugar Bowl of the

Philippines," the province is the country's top producer of sugar cane. It produces more than half the nation's sugar output.

Through the governor's order, the province has committed itself in the fight against global warming by pursuing clean and renewable-energy (RE)

projects "opposing the entry or establishment of any coal-fired power plant."

The order also paved the way for the creation of the Provincial Renewable Energy Council, which will formulate measures encouraging RE programs "for a greener and energy-sufficient province."

Negros Island has been a center of RE sources in the Philippines, hosting several solar and wind energy power plants.

With this development, the two provinces on the island join Ilocos Norte, Guimaras and Sorsogon as the only provinces in the country banning

coal, which are also joined by the cities of Sorsogon, Masbate and Ozamiz.

In a news statement, the Climate Reality Project expressed hope that the province will serve as a model to break free from coal and commit to the fight to solve the climate crisis. **Jonathan L. Mayuga**



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Nation in briefs

NEGROS OCC DECLARED COAL FREE

BACOLOD CITY: Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr. signed an Executive Order on Wednesday titled, "An order declaring the province of Negros Occidental as a source of clean and renewable energy and a coal-free province." Part of the order said, "Negros Occidental shall continue to pursue clean and renewable energy projects, opposing the entry or establishment of any coal-fired power plant." A Provincial Renewable Energy Council will also be established to promote renewable energy programs in the province. Earlier on Wednesday, students gathered at the provincial capitol in Bacolod City to oppose the proposed coal-fired power plant in San Carlos City. Negros Island has been a center of renewable energy in the Philippines, hosting solar, hydro, biomass, and geothermal energy power plants. Last year, Gov. Roel Degamo of Negros Oriental was the first to declare his province as coal-free. The two provinces in Negros Island join Ilocos Norte, Guimaras, Sorsogon, Masbate and Ozamiz City as coal-free areas in the country.

EUGENE Y. ADIONG



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NEWS

163M sachets thrown away daily

If Filipinos keep on throwing away more than 163 million plastic sachets daily, Metro Manila will be covered almost knee-deep in plastic waste in one year, an environmental watchdog said on Thursday. Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives warned of this waste management nightmare as it released findings of its five-year trash audit based on samples of garbage at 21 sites across the country. —STORY BY MELVIN GASCON

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TRASH AUDIT FINDINGS

PINOYS' DAILY PLASTIC WASTE: 163M SACHETS, 3M DIAPERS

By Melvin Gascon
@melvingasconINQ

If Filipinos keep on throwing away more than 163 million plastic sachets daily, Metro Manila will be covered almost knee-deep in plastic waste in one year, an environment group said on Thursday.

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (Gaia) described the environmental nightmare as it released findings of its five-year trash audit, a week before a meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly to discuss plastic pollution.

"The problem is the huge amount of single-use plastics being produced—not just the way waste is managed," said Froilan Grate, executive director of Gaia Asia-Pacific.

Filipinos were also throwing away 48 million plastic shopping bags, 45 million thin-film bags, and three million diapers every day, Gaia reported.

21 cities and towns

The audit, which was conducted by Mother Earth Foundation (MEF), collected trash samples from households in 21 selected sites across the Philippines, including six cities and seven towns.

According to the report, the average Filipino uses 591 pieces of plastic sachets, 174 shopping bags and 163 plastic "labo" (translucent) bags yearly.

The study was meant to "expose" the role of manufacturers in the global proliferation of plastic waste, and "unmask" how the industry has supposedly passed on the blame for the disposal and cleanup of waste to local governments.

Cities and towns deal with a greater number of "branded" plastic waste—comprising about 54 percent of total residual waste—than "unbranded" plastics, it said.

Ten companies are responsible for 60 percent of "branded" plastics and four

multinational companies account for 36 percent.

Pollution problem

"Plastic is a pollution problem, and it starts as soon as the plastic is made. The only way to manage single-use plastic is to make less of it," Grate said.

MEF chair Sonia Mendoza said the findings should prompt local governments to find better ways of addressing plastic waste.

The sheer volume of trash is "beyond the capacity of local governments to manage," Mendoza said.

Under Republic Act No. 9003, or the Solid Waste Management Act, local governments are tasked with solid waste management in their respective areas.

Local governments can use the data to ban or regulate the use of plastic packaging and to compel companies to acknowledge their liability for plastic pollution, Mendoza said.

"Cities can strengthen regulations, improve waste management services and reduce waste volume," she said.

Burden on manufacturers

Von Hernandez, national coordinator of Break Free From Plastic, said the study reinforced the need to pass on the burden to manufacturers.

"They have been successful in framing the narrative that the problem of plastic pollution has always been about government's improper waste management and a problem of discipline among Filipinos," he said. "It is high time we change that."

The study called on the government to regulate the production and use of single-use plastics, and pressed manufacturers to find alternative means of packaging products.

Organic waste accounted for more than half of the waste produced in the Philippines, which supposedly affirmed organic waste management as an "important strategy" to create "substantial waste reduction" for local governments, it said. INQ



TRASHY SHORES Plastic waste covers this coastline in Tondo, Manila. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE



Turning plastic into play areas

MONDELEZ Philippines has launched a program to help turn plastic packaging waste into play areas for its adopted Joy Schools.

This project is in support of the Mondelez' global 2025 commitment to make all packaging recyclable, provide recycling information, and support public-private partnerships to help reduce waste and improve recycling.

The Joy Schools Plastic Play Areas project is Mondelez Phil-

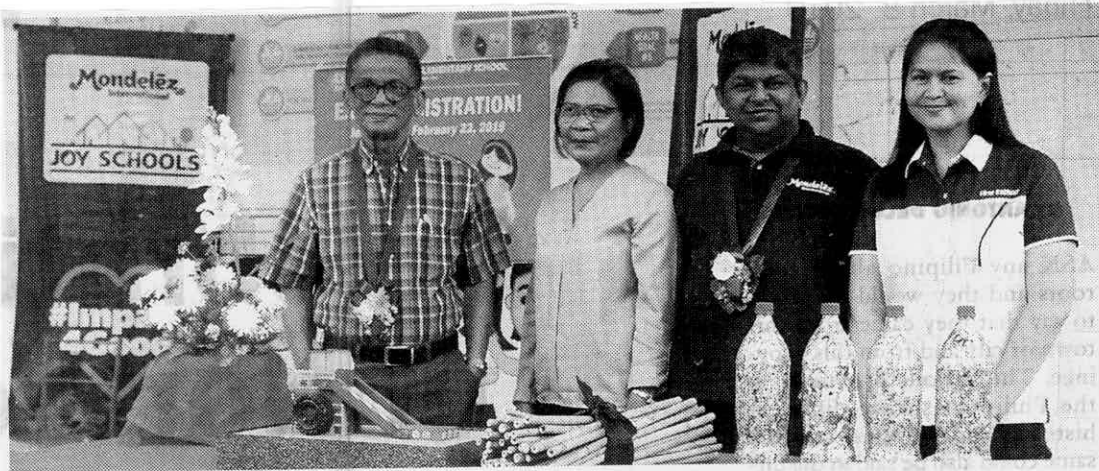
ippines' signature community program across South East Asia. The Joy Schools currently provides a daily 9-month feeding for 300 undernourished students in the country to help improve their nutrition and increase energy for school.

Working with partners the Philippine Business for Social Progress and First Balfour, Mondelez Philippines will engage the Joy Schools in collecting ecobricks – or plastic 1.5 or 1.75-liter bottles which are stuffed with

plastic packaging waste. The partners' own employees are also engaged to collect ecobricks for this project.

The target is to collect 400 ecobricks which are equivalent to some 400 kilos of plastic waste.

Once collected, these ecobricks will be turned into play areas for three Joy Schools in Metro Manila, located in Parañaque and Quezon City. The play areas will be constructed by First Balfour.



(From left) Anchel Cruz, HR senior supervisor of First Balfour; Ashish Pisharodi, country director of Mondelez Philippines; assistant principal Flora Baggayan of Camp Claudio Elementary School; and Boi Mojica, assistant department head of the City Environment and Natural Resources in Parañaque City, where two of the schools are located.



CTALK

CITO BELTRAN

Cheap shots and cheap pollutants

Representatives of the environmental group Greenpeace recently did some publicity efforts to call for a ban on "single use plastics" while another group called for a ban on "sachet" packaging of consumer goods such as shampoos, coffee, sugar etc. Aside from single use plastic bags and sachet packaging, I'd like to add my own call to ban small sized plastic bottles for drinks.



Most people don't think about it, but if you have street sweepers in your community like we do in Pasig, try asking them what the waste materials they sweep are generally made of? If you walk around condominium construction sites most places are littered with plastic bags where vendors pour in soft drinks, buko juice, or ice tea. Partner to the plastic bag that is not food safe will always be a plastic straw and all of these will end up on sidewalks, gutter canals or drainage canals and eventually into rivers and Manila Bay or some nearby body of water. If consumers managed to wean themselves from plastic shopping bags provided by supermarkets, there is no reason why we cannot move away from single use plastics.

Ironically, not many environmentalists have paid attention to small pet water bottles that are often the cheapest size bottled water and the most disposed and rarely reused. These small bottles probably compose the second highest volume of plastic trash that litter our country, but it is too much of a pollutant for just one glass of water. It should be outlawed or banned and the government should require water bottlers to sell drinking water in larger volumes like 750ml. Bigger volumes would automatically do away with small bottles and increase the potential for reuse or recycling of water bottles.

The call to ban sachet packaging is nothing new for me because believe it or not, I first heard this idea or suggestion from an expat or foreign executive of a multinational firm that sells shampoos and conditioners in sachets. The executive told me that while sachet packaging makes their product affordable for ordinary buyers, the truth was buyers were getting so much less for their money compared to buying shampoo and conditioners in bottle sizes. The sachet packaging apparently costs more than the spoonful of shampoo that goes into it, so you only think it's cheaper but it is actually more expensive. The executive also realized that sachet packaging is not very biodegradable and therefore not environmentally friendly. Unfortunately, it would require a law or order of Congress or the Department of Trade and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to ban sachets, single use plastics and small sized pet bottled water and juices for being disadvantageous to consumers and certified pollutants or a threat to the environment. This is a serious challenge to the DTI and DENR and something whose time has come.



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PLASTIC WASTE—Members of environmental groups the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) and Mother Earth Foundation segregate plastic waste from a figure of a whale shark to call the public's attention to avoid the use of plastic, at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife in Quezon City yesterday. According to the groups, Filipinos use 340 million different kinds of plastics daily. They are urging the government to regulate the manufacture of single-use plastic bags or packages. (Mark Balmores)



Malaya Business Insight

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Segregating waste. Members of environmental groups Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives and Mother Earth Foundation segregate waste collected at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife in Quezon City.

PHOTO BY ROLLY SALVADOR



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NO TO PLASTIC. Members of environmental groups Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives and Mother Earth Foundation, segregate plastic waste in an effort to break free from plastic waste at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife in Quezon City yesterday. According to the groups, Filipinos use 340 million different kinds of plastic daily. They also called on the government and manufacturers to regulate and stop producing single-use plastics. **Manny Palmero**



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Environ killer Ecology groups sort plastic wastes as they campaign for a halt to the use of single-use pouches. ANALY LABOR



Greenpeace questions Philippines' air quality ranking in world report

GREENPEACE advised caution against readily accepting the findings of the AirVisual 2018 World Air Quality Report ranking Philippine cities as the cleanest in Southeast Asia, pointing out the inadequacies of the country's existing air monitoring systems.

Khevin Yu, campaigner of Greenpeace Philippines, said, "The good ranking of Philippine cities in the global report is not a cause for celebration, as we have the least average number of monitoring stations per city in the region. In fact, the re-

port highlights the urgent need for more comprehensive, governmental, real-time monitoring networks for the public to fully understand the state of air quality in the Philippines."

The data included in the study was crowdsourced from a range of continuous governmental monitoring sources, as well as outdoor Air Visual air quality monitors operated by private individuals and organizations. For lack of clear air monitoring systems in the Philippines, the study had to rely on the use of only 1 or 2 devices in the 16 cities highlighted, most of which are not lo-

cated near coal-fired power plants, which are major contributors to dangerous PM 2.5 pollution.

"The report therefore represents only a small fraction of the air pollution situation in the country. Given the previous alarming studies related to coal emissions, it is imperative to conduct more thorough and comprehensive research in cities near coal power plants and other sources of air pollution," Yu said.

A 2016 study carried out at Harvard University, entitled, "Coal: A Public Health Crisis. Diseases and deaths attributed to coal

use in the Philippines," estimates that coal plant emissions could kill 2,400 Filipinos per year.

"Anyone in the country who has been in cities and main thoroughfares of Metro Manila and Calamba knows that we have air pollution problems. As Greenpeace has done in Thailand, we are urging the Philippine government to improve our air pollution standards, and put publicly accessible monitoring systems in place for further research and legislative support to reduce pollution globally," Yu said.

Jun I. Legaspi



Laguna may pinakamalinis na hangin sa Southeast Asia

Pasok sa listahan ng mga lugar sa Southeast Asia na may pinakamalinis na hangin ang 11 lungsod sa Pilipinas, at nasa tuktok nito ang Calamba City sa Laguna ayon sa isang pag-aaral.

Sa ginawang pagsusuri ng IQ AirVisual sa kalidad ng hangin sa iba't ibang bansa, dinomina ng Pilipinas ang top 15 city na may malinis na hangin.

Pangalawa sa listahan ang Valenzuela City, Carmona City sa Cavite, Parañaque City, Davao City at Makati City.

Kabilang rin ang Maynila City na pangatlo sa listahan na sinundan ng Mandaluyong, Balanga City sa Bataan, Quezon City, at panghuli ang Las Piñas City.

Gayunman, napabilang ang Meycuayan sa Bulacan at Caloocan City sa 15 lungsod sa SEA na may polluted air.

Kaugnay nito, sa kaparehong pag-aaral na ginawa sa 73 bansa, rank 1 bilang pinakamalalang kalidad ng hangin at 73 naman bilang pinakamalinis, nasa ika-48 ang Pilipinas at kabilang sa kategorya ng moderate o katamtaman.

Nanguna sa listahang ito ang Bangladesh habang ika-73 o may pinakamalinis na kalidad ng hangin ang Iceland.

Ginawa ang pag-aaral batay sa batayan na PM2.5, isang particulate matter (ambient airborne particle), na umaabot hanggang 2.5 microns ang laki na maaring maging sanhi ng malawak na sakop ng maikli at pangmatagalang epekto sa kalusugan.



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2 forest guards ng DENR, huli sa kotong

BAGUIO CITY – Arestado ang dalawang forest guards ng Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) dahil sa pangingikil ng mga ito sa isang grupo ng mga small scale miners sa bayan ng Itogon sa lalawigan ng Benguet.

Nahuli ang mga ito sa isinagawang entrapment operation ng Itogon Municipal Police Station sa Baguio Gold, Tuding, Itogon, Benguet, alas-3:10 kamakalawa.

Nakilala ang mga suspek na sina Danilo Pal-iwen Atompa, 54, may asawa, residente ng North Sanitary Camp, Baguio City; at Dino Landisan Lasaten, 58, may asawa at residente ng Quezon Hill, Baguio City.

Sa ulat, nakumpiska mula sa mga suspek ang P8,000 “boodle money”, dalawang piraso ng original P1,000 marked money, DENR ID cards at ang cellphone na nagamit sa transaksyon.

Sa report, humihingi ng pera ang dalawang forest guards ng pera kapalit ng hindi nila pagpapahuli sa mga minero na naghahakot ng mga reserbang gold ores.

Nahaharap ngayon ang mga suspek sa kasong robbery-extortion.



2 forest guard arestado sa pangingikil sa mga minero

Inaresto ng mga awtoridad ang dalawang forest guard ng Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) dahil umano sa ginawang pangingikil sa isang grupo ng mga small scale miner sa Itogon, Benguet.

Sa ikinasang entrapment operation ng Itogon Police sa sa Baguio Gold, Tuding, ng nasabing bayan, alas-3:10 Miyerkoles nang hapon, nahuli sina Danilo Pal-iwen Atompa, 54, at Dino Landisan Lasaten, 58 pawang taga-Baguio City.

Hinuli ang dalawa kasunod ng reklamo ng mga minero sa pangingikil umano sa kanila kapalit ng hindi paghuli sa mga ito dahil sa paghahakot ng mga reserbang gold ore.

Nakumpiska mula sa mga suspek ang P8,000 boodle money, dalawang piraso ng P1,000 marked money, DENR ID cards at ang cellphone na nagamit sa transaksyon.

Kasong robbery-extortion ang kakaharapin ng mga suspek. **(Riz Dominguez)**