

04 APR 2019

DATE :

DAY :

Thursday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Mimaropa marks World Water Day with river cleanup

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Over 9,000 volunteers marked World Water Day (WWD) in the Mimaropa region with simultaneous cleanup of 11 rivers, which netted around 22 tons of garbage, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

The cleanup coincided with the launch of the Calapan River rehabilitation project in Oriental Mindoro. The river has been suffering from pollution due to solid waste disposal and untreated wastewater discharge.

The cleanup activities recently organized by the DENR gathered participants from the agency's field offices, partner agencies, local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations, academic, religious, and business sectors and other civil society groups with one goal in mind: to save rivers from pollution, and achieve safe water for present and future generations.

The event was dubbed, "Water for all now and foRiver," taking off from this year's WWD theme, "Water for All, Leaving No One Behind." WWD is celebrated every March 22.

Aside from the Calapan River, the volunteers also cleaned up the Sabang River in Sablayan, and Pandurucan River in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; Boac River in Marinduque; and Bangon-bongoy River in Romblon.

In Palawan, citizens trooped to the Umalad River in Roxas, Abongan River in Taytay, Tagburos River in Puerto Princesa City, Buligay River in Brooke's Point, Panitian River in Quezon, and Sitio Manggahan 1 and 2, and Bakawan Creeks in Coron.

DENR Mimaropa regional executive director Henry Adornado said that the degrading state of rivers and the rest of the country's environment prompted the DENR to enforce the law in the rehabilitation of critical areas.

"From the regional down to our provincial and community offices, the DENR offices here in Mimaropa work as one in protecting and conserving our environment," he said.

Calapan River was designated as a Water Quality Management Area in 2013. Since then, numerous efforts have been undertaken by the city government to restore its water quality, including the passage of several ordinances consistent with environmental laws.

The area designation beefs up protection initiatives as it requires management action by the local government and other stakeholders.



DENR HOLDS DREDGING BY SHIP WITH SINO CREW

1/2

STORY BY JHESSET O. ENANO AND MARICAR CINCO

The environment department withholds the environmental clearance certificate for a river desilting project in Batangas province because the company involved has not obtained other permits needed for the flood control works.

FROM A1

By Jhesset O. Enano
and Maricar Cinco
@Team_Inquirer

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday suspended the environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the dredging of a river in Batangas province following the unannounced arrival of a large Chinese-manned vessel close to a fishing village, a DENR official said on Wednesday.

Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the department would also look into possible environmental destruction caused by the 2,990-ton MV Emerald, a hopper dredger, after it dropped anchor 500 meters from the 30-hectare mangrove reserve of Lagadlarin village in Lobo town last Thursday.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ordered the regional office of the Environmental Management Bureau to suspend the ECC it issued in October 2018 to Seagate Engineering and Buildsystems to desilt the Lobo River for the town's flood control project, Antiporda said.

Seagate, which contracted the dredger, did not budge despite an order by Lobo Mayor Gaudioso "Jurly" Manalo to send the ship away.

Leo Campos, Seagate chief operating officer and general manager, told the Inquirer that the company would begin operating "as soon as we obtain the final permit from the National Security Council (NSC)."

He explained that the NSC, which is chaired by President Duterte, had to first clear the operation of any foreign ship in Philippine waters.

Based on documents seen by the Inquirer, Seagate and former Lobo Mayor Virgilio Manalo, a younger brother of the incumbent, signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA)

in 2008 to dredge up to 2 million cubic meters of sand and silt from the river at no cost to the town.

HK airport project

The sand would then be sold by Seagate for \$2 per metric ton to Synergy Plus Holdings Ltd., which supposedly will use it for the reclamation and construction of the Hong Kong International Airport Three Runway System.

Synergy's purchase order indicated that the sand would be taken from the riverbed using the trailing hopper suction dredging system, which essentially involves sucking the soil and unloading it on the ship.

Antiporda said Seagate's ECC was suspended because it failed to comply with the other requirements for almost a year now. These include permits for mineral ore export, operation

and transport. Antiporda said the mineral ore export permit was denied in February 2019, while the company had not yet applied for the two others.

The regional office of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) denied Seagate's application for a mineral ore export permit because the "source of mineral is not covered by any mining permit."

No permits

A Feb. 20 letter to Campos by Krizia Ann Alberto, regional officer in charge of the MGB, said the MOA was not "a valid legal basis to conduct extraction and disposition of mineral resources within the subject area."

Maria Paz Luna, the DENR director for Calabarzon, also said Seagate failed to secure other permits from other agencies, such as the Department of

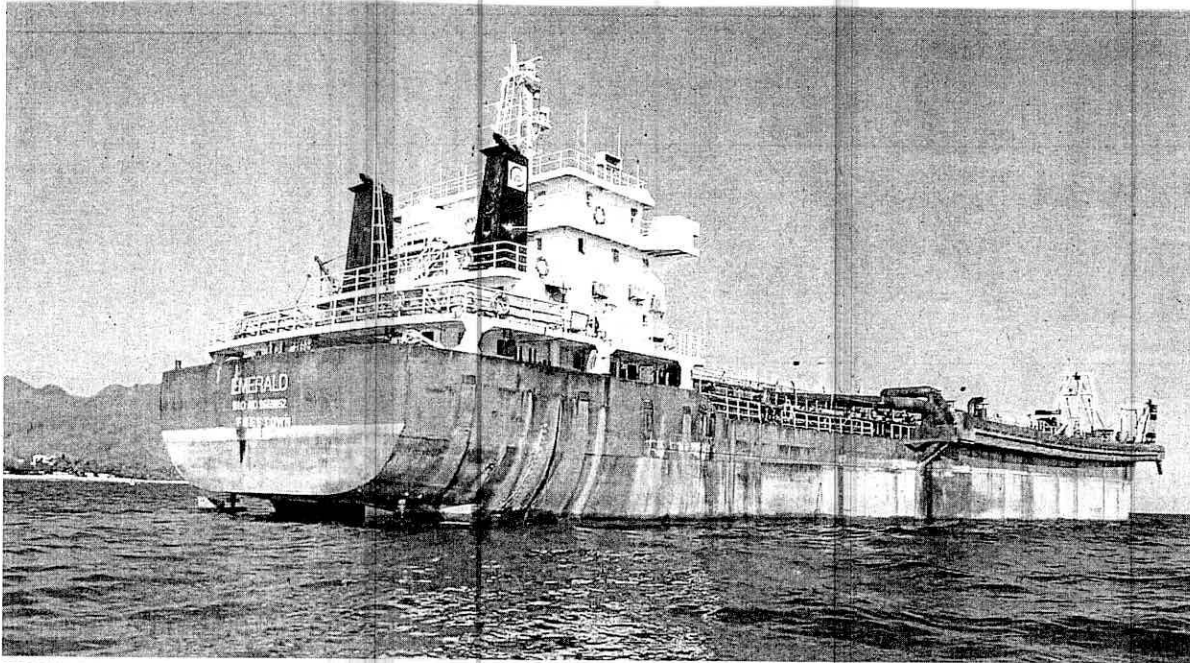


04 APR 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE



2/2

STAYING PUT The MV Emerald, a dredging ship that would be used in desilting the Lobo River in Batangas province, remains anchored close to the mangrove forest of Lagadlarin village in Lobo town, Batangas province, while officials discuss whether to proceed with the flood control project. —PHOTO COURTESY OF BATANGAS POLICE MARITIME GROUP

Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Agrarian Reform, and Department of Social Welfare and Development, which “rendered the (2018) ECC infirm.”

Potential damage

Antiporda said the DENR had sent a team from the Biodiversity Management Bureau to look into potential damage to Lobo’s waters.

“In case they caused any impact on our biodiversity there, they will have to be penalized and punished,” he told the Inquirer in a phone interview, adding that both the vessel and Seagate could be held accountable for any damage.

Lobo is part of the Verde Island Passage, a marine sanctuary considered by scientists the world’s center of the center of marine shorefish biodiversity.

The ship’s anchor might

have already damaged the sea grass, a breeding ground for fish and sea turtles, Manalo earlier told the Inquirer.

Lobo officials will not allow Seagate’s dredging because “they would destroy our sea and might even cause our dike to collapse,” Manalo said, referring to an ongoing dike project of the DPWH in the Lobo River.

Another dredging deal

Besides, he said Seagate’s dredging would just be redundant as another local company, FS Suntan Sand Corp., had already started dredging and desilting the river under a 10-year contract with the Lobo government until 2022.

Campos, whose office in San Pascual is just a few towns away from Lobo, said it was not true that they did not coordinate with the local and provincial governments about the dredg-

ing project, based on the 10-year-old MOA, and had met with Manalo about it last year.

The Inquirer obtained a copy of Seagate’s Dec. 10, 2018, letter to Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas, informing the province of the dredging project.

“There might have been some miscommunication but I would presume they (expected) the arrival of the vessel because they knew about the MOA,” Campos said in a phone interview.

Manalo acknowledged the meeting but said he had “witnesses when I told him I’m not allowing it.”

He said the 2012 contract with Suntan Sand “supercedes” the 2008 MOA with Seagate, although there has been no resolution passed by the municipal council revoking the earlier agreement.

2008 agreement

Campos said that the 2008 MOA specified the project should not entail any costs to the local government.

He said his company would be made to pay a 4-percent excise imposed by the Department of Finance, the local tax set by local ordinances, and P12 per cubic meter of sand or silt to be divided among the local government (which will get 30 percent), the provincial government (30 percent) and the village (40 percent).

“All our documents are correct, valid and legal,” Campos said.

He said they did not immediately start back in 2008 as the MOA prevented them from doing it “piecemeal.”

“For us to earn back (our investment), we are to execute (a deal with Synergy). Now we can do it continually,” Campos said.

He said Synergy came in offering its capacity and equipment for a “large-scale” project, such as its hopper dredger that Philippine companies did not have. INQ



Trusted Since 1939

The Manila Times



PAGE



UPPER



PAGE 1 STORY



FEATURE STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

04 APR 2019

DATE

DENR suspends dredging activities in Batangas

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday suspended the planned dredging by a foreign vessel in Lobo, Batangas for lack of documents required by the government.

Undersecretary Benny Antiporda told *The Manila Times* that while the dredging vessel *M/V Emerald* operated by Seagate Engineering and Buildsystems had secured an environmental

compliance certificate (ECC), it lacked several documents and a clearance from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

Antiporda said the DENR awarded Seagate's environmental compliance certificate last year, but instructed the company to secure other documents like mineral export permits and operation and clearance permits from the

► **DredgingA8**

■ DREDGING FROM A1

DENR suspends dredging

MGB, within 60 days of the release of its ECC.

"We suspended their ECC and this means that they cannot push through with their dredging activities. We had given them their ECC since last year and until this very moment, they have not completed the required papers," Antiporda said in a phone interview.

The 99-meter-long, 17-meter-wide-ship *MV Emerald*, a Sierra Leone-registered vessel said to be manned by Chinese and Indonesian crew, came for a dredging mission, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) confirmed. It docked near Lobo on Thursday.

"It is intended to the dredging and desilting of Lobo River and estuaries nearby as per contract between local government of Lobo and Seagate Engineering Buildsystems, a company registered in the Philippines owned by Engineer Leo Campos," the PCG said in a statement.

"As of the moment, they have not yet started their dredging," Antiporda said, adding that the DENR would closely coordinate with the local government of Lobo.

He also noted that several documents of Seagate, particularly its memorandum of agreement with the local government of Lobo, had no expiry date, which must be "thoroughly" checked.

"We found out that a certain

document of Seagate has no expiry date and this calls for the rightful discretion of Mayor Jurly Manalo to review the legalities of all the documents that Seagate has before it can start its dredging activities," Antiporda said.

Manalo, in an interview with radio station DZBB on Wednesday, said Seagate presented a 2008 contract with the local government, but the project was discontinued in 2012 after the company failed to comply with the contract.

The mayor said the town negotiated with another company for dredging works in Lobo.

DENR Calabarzon Regional Director Maria Paz Luna said the MGB never issued an ore transport permit nor an export permit, therefore it would be illegal to take dredged material from Lobo out of the country.

"MGB will issue a Cease and Desist Order against Seagate Engineering and Building Systems to ensure that no dredging/siphoning activities will be conducted without necessary permits. The Philippine Coast Guard was also requested to conduct constant monitoring. The effectivity of the ECCs are premised on the subsequent compliance with other conditions," Luna said.

**EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ,
REVA MARCELO AND TINA
GANZON OZAETA**



DENR: No permit for firm that brought dredging vessel to Lobo

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Seagate Engineering and Buildsystems, a company that reportedly commissioned a Chinese-manned ship that stirred speculation of illegal dredging activities in a fishing village in Lobo, Batangas, has no permit to operate, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said on Wednesday.

Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda, deputy spokesman of Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, said the Chinese-manned MV *Emerald*, a 2,990 hopper dredger, is not supposed to be operating in the area as the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) of Seagate Engineering has already been suspended by the DENR.

"We have suspended all ECCs of the dredging company, Seagate Engineering. The Mineral Ore Export Permit application of Seagate was also denied last February," Antiporda, also DENR undersecretary for local government units and solid waste management told the BUSINESSMIRROR.

He said the presence of the vessel, which alarmed residents of Barangay Lagadlarin, has no permit to dredge or extract minerals, much more, transport any mineral resources with no permits both from the local government, and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the DENR.

"Wala naman talagang operation [They were not conducting any operation]. They are not operating, yet. They are there but they cannot operate. If they do, we will take action against them," the DENR official said.

Lobo, Batangas, is a fishing town and is surrounded by rich marine biodiversity. Part of the

Verde Island Passage, Lobo is being targeted by several mining companies but residents have strongly opposed the entry of large-scale mining to protect their environment.

The Verde Island Passage has often been referred to as the world's center of marine shore fish biodiversity.

Reports said Seagate is planning to extract sand. The MV *Emerald* was spotted off Barangay Lagadlarin since Thursday and was anchored close to a 30-hectare mangrove forest. Local officials denied issuing permit or approval of the ship's docking in the area, which happens to have no pier. Later, Seagate representatives went to

talk to local officials asking permission to dredge and extract sand at a nearby river.

It was learned that Seagate Engineering had a deal with the former mayor of Lobo in 2008 for the company to dredge the river. But the plan did not push through.

The representative of Seagate allegedly showed an ECC allegedly issued by the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau in 2018, which Antiporda said, has been suspended effective immediately.

"If they will continue to operate without an ECC or permit from us, then we will take action against them," Antiporda said.



DENR inawat ang paghuhukay ng mga Chinese sa Batangas

SINUSPINDE ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang isang proyektong paghuhukay ng isang Chinese vessel sa Lobo, Batangas.

Ang dredging vessel na dumbaong noong Huwebes sa naturang baybayin ay gagamitin para sa pagpapadala ng buhangin mula sa Lobo River bilang bahagi ng isang proyektong pagkontrol sa baha ng lokal na pamahalaan at Pilipinong kompanya na Seagate Engineering at Buildsystems.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, ang proyekto ay may environmental compliance certificate (ECC), ngunit kulang ang mga kinakailangang dokumento tulad ng permit to transport at clearance mula sa Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

"Ang instruction po is i-suspend muna at alamin kung ano ba yung mga kakulangan sa kanilang papel," pahayag ni Antiporda.

"In case po na hindi po talaga magiging maganda sa atin pong kalikasan itong kanilang gagawin, hindi po papayagan iyan," anang opisyal.

Una nang sinabi ni Lobo Mayor Gaudioso Manalo na ang barko ay kulang sa dredging permit at ang kinatawan nito ay nagpakita lamang ng 2008 kasunduan sa lokal na pamahalaan. **(Mina Aquino)**



PCCI members near Manila Bay vow to heed env'tal rules

By ELIJAH FELICE E. ROSALES [@alyasjah](#)

THE country's largest business network has instructed its members operating near and around Manila Bay to comply with environmental regulations in aid of government efforts to rehabilitate the area.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) vowed its members near and around Manila Bay will adhere to environmental regulations in support of the ongoing cleanup of the tourist spot. It also guaranteed firms affiliated with PCCI are stepping up their business practices to make them sustainable for the environment.

However, the group appealed to the government to observe due process in dealing with noncompliant enterprises.

"[The] PCCI assures the government of its support as a partner in this endeavor. The PCCI will encourage its member-businesses to

comply with environmental regulations and implement sustainable business practices, but also [appeals] to the government that due process should always be observed in dealing with noncompliance issues," PCCI said in a recent statement.

"The cleanup of Manila Bay is a huge and daunting challenge that cannot be done by the government alone and requires the support of the private sector," the statement added.

The PCCI argued that the government has to involve the private sector in the cleanup drive given the grandness and coverage of the

initiative. Further, the group said businesses need to take part in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, as it is a center of economic activity, from shipping to tourism.

"[The] PCCI further believes that the initiative to rehabilitate Manila Bay is paramount considering that Manila Bay is the country's major center of economic activity ranging from shipping, industrial, commercial, fishing, aquaculture and tourism," the statement read.

Last Sunday, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu headed simultaneous river and estero cleanups in 42 Metro Manila barangays as part of government efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

Cimatu said that for the bay to be cleaned up, it is important to stop pollution right at the source.

The government is implementing a P4.7-billion, seven-year program to rehabilitate Manila Bay, as mandated under Administrative Order 16 issued by Malacañang in February.

The cleanup of Manila Bay comes on the heels of the government's rehabilitation of Boracay Island. The government had to shut down the island destination for six months from April to October of last year to allow establishments near and around it to fix their sewerage systems believed to be polluting the waters.

“[The] PCCI assures the government of its support as a partner in this endeavor. The PCCI will encourage its member-businesses to comply with environmental regulations and implement sustainable business practices, but also [appeals] to the government that due process should always be observed in dealing with noncompliance issues.”—PCCI



P. 2

Massive land reclamation requires massive public consultation

ing and community needs are not on top of any reclamation-development agenda. The whole process clearly smacks of grave social and economic injustice.

Meantime, host LGUs become indebted and dependent on the big corporate reclamation proponents. Corporate real-estate development projects become the cornerstone of LGU development programming. A people-centered and community-based in situ economic development programming, as envisioned by the Constitution and the Local Autonomy Code, is either ignored or set aside. The responsibility of the LGUs to address the more urgent challenges of urban renewal and inner-city redevelopment, including coastal community development, is somehow forgotten, as the peso earnings from corporate-sponsored reclamation are projected as the LGUs' major accomplishments. Cities are being built around the commodified reclaimed real-estate lands, not on the welfare needs of the ordinary citizens, especially of the urban poor.

Incidentally, in most countries of the world, the planning, implementation, control and decisions on the uses of a reclaimed land are in the hands of the government. After all, the seas from which the lands are reclaimed are part of the public domain, part of what sociologists call as the "commons." In short, the seas and the reclaimed lands are part of the commons. Hence, any reclamation should entail intensive consultation with the citizenry and the communities lying on the path of reclamation. Massive reclamation requires massive public consultation!

Are there job-rich development alternatives for the LGUs? There are, but city executives and planners have to adjust their development lenses. Manila Bay, for example, can be transformed into a major eco-educational-tourism project that can attract millions once the Bay is fully cleaned up, dredged and rehabilitated. The transformation of Corregidor, the site of bloody World War II fighting, is an example of what an eco-educational-tourism project, planned in concert with academe, can become.

The coastal fishing communities along the Bay can also be transformed into modern and sustainable communities if the communities are treated as partners in building up fishery-related industries, cooperative social enterprises and a whole slew of community redevelopment programs. The question that should be raised to the LGUs and their city planners: *Para saan ba ang mga reclamation projects: sa tao o sa ilan lang malalaking korporasyon?*

The proposal of Rep. Rose Marie Arenas for a total ban on any further reclamation project in the whole Manila Bay area is very much welcome. There should be a rigorous, transparent and massive government-citizen consultation on all the proposed reclamation projects in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

The full ecological rehabilitation and restoration of the natural beauty of Manila Bay should be the primary task of the LGUs and concerned government agencies, not its devastation and desecration.

Contact: Rene E. Ofreneo, President, FDC
reneofreneo@gmail.com



BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

4.2
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 APR 2019

DATE



VOLUNTEERS from the public and private sectors work together at a recent Manila Bay cleanup led by the DENR. **NONIE REYES**



Live tarantulas seized at NAIA

By **BETHEENA KAE UNITE**

A total of 757 live venomous tarantulas concealed in gift-wrapped oatmeal cookies were recently seized from a shipment at the Central Mail Exchange Center of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Pasay City Monday.

According to the Bureau of Customs, the live tarantulas were shipped from Poland by a certain Wojciech Pakasz. It was consigned to Jesse Camaro of Caloocan City.

Port of NAIA District Collector Carmelita Talusan said the tarantulas, which were classified as endangered species, were valued at P310,000.

Violators of Illegal Wildlife Trading may face imprisonment of one year and one day to two years. A P20,000 to P200,000 fine will be imposed against violators under R.A. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

The seized wildlife animals were turned over to the Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit-Department of Environment and Natural Resources (WTMU-DENR) Tuesday.

Talusan said since 2018, the port has turned over to the DENR a total of 2,152 wildlife and endangered species including 250 geckos, 254 corals, and other endangered reptiles which were discovered in air parcels, baggage, and shipments.

A total of 63 iguanas, chameleon, and bearded dragons were also recently intercepted at the port.

In March 2019, the Bureau of Customs was globally recognized for its successful anti-illegal trade efforts which resulted in the seizure of 1,529 smuggled turtles from Hong Kong, Talusan added.



DECLARED AS 'COLLECTION ITEMS'

700 LIVE TARANTULAS FOUND IN COOKIE, OATMEAL BOXES

Jerome Aning
@JeromeAningINQ

Customs agents at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) have turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources over 700 live tarantulas found inside boxes of cookies and oatmeal from Poland on Monday.

Naia customs district collector Mimel Talusan said the claimant of the parcel, Jesse Camaro of Caloocan City, underwent inquest proceedings on Tuesday at the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office.

The parcel was seized at the Naia Central Mail Exchange Center on Monday with the sender identified as Wojciech Pakasz.

The tarantulas worth about P300,000 had been declared as "collection items." The smaller spiders were inside plastic tubes while the larger ones were in plastic film containers concealed inside nine oatmeal and cookie boxes.

Camaro faces up to a year in jail or a maximum fine of P100,000 for violating Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Pro-

tection Act.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, meanwhile, lauded the conviction of a woman who had sold a live green iguana—listed as an endangered and threatened species—as "a victory for the battle against illegal wildlife trade."

'Unbelievable' defense

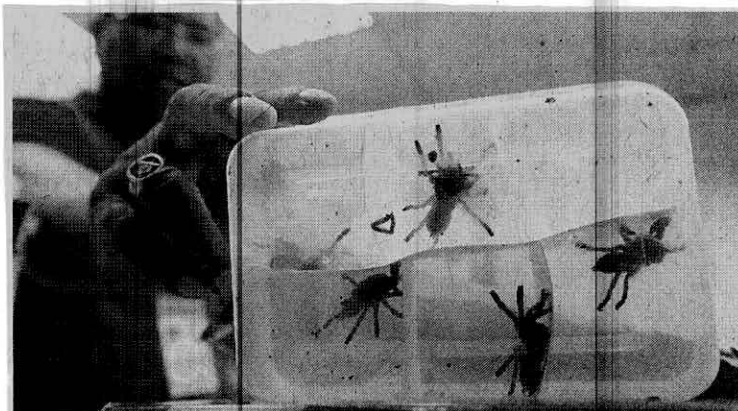
In a ruling last month, Judge Carlo Villarama of the Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 36 dismissed Harriet Shelley Velarde's denial of ownership of the seized reptile as "untenable, unsupported and unbelievable."

She was found guilty of violating RA 9147 and sentenced to up to two years in jail. She must also pay a fine of P200,000.

Velarde was arrested in July 2018 by the Environmental Crime Division of the National Bureau of Investigation, based on a report that she was selling endangered species in Quezon City.

She was taken into custody after she received payment for the iguana priced at P10,000.

—WITH A REPORT FROM JHESSET O. ENANO INQ



NOT YOUR AVERAGE COOKIE OR CEREAL A staffer of the environment department's Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit shows some of the tarantulas found in boxes of cookies and oatmeal at the Central Mail Exchange Center in Pasay City.

—GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Manila Standard

A-C
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 APR 2019

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

BOC intercepts 757 venomous tarantulas

By Vito Barcelo

THE Bureau of Customs has intercepted 757 live venomous tarantulas worth more than P300,000 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport which came from Poland.

Customs District collector Carmelita Talusan has turned over the seized tarantulas to the Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit-Department of Environment and Natural Resources for safekeeping.

She said the confiscated tarantulas valued at P310, 000 were seized by Customs agents of the Port of NAIA at the Central Mail Exchange Center in Pasay City on Wednesday.

The tarantulas which were classified as endangered wildlife species were found concealed in gift-wrapped oatmeal and cookies.

"The shipment was sent from Poland by a certain Wojciech Pakasz and was consigned to Jesse Camaro, a resident of Caloocan City," she said.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

**Daily
Tribune**
www.DailyTribune.com



PAGE



UPPER
LOWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

04 APR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

Crawly cargo Department of Environment and Natural Resources officer shows one of the 757 Tarantulas kept inside plastic containers seized by Customs agents at Manila's international airport. The endangered wildlife species were found concealed in gift-wrapped oatmeal and cookie boxes and were shipped from Poland.

AP





STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



04 APR 2019
DATE

TITLE :

PAGE 1/

Sea turtles released from coal-fired power plant shore

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY – At least 115 turtle hatchlings were released into the sea over the weekend from the coast of a coal-powered plant in Barangay Binugao, Toril District, this city.

The sea turtles were found in three nests earlier discovered along the coastline of AboitizPower subsidiary Therma South Inc. (TSI) in Binugao.

The first nest was found on Dec. 14 and the second last Feb. 23.

Since the discovery of the nests, TSI has worked with various groups, including the team from the group's

pawikan conservatory in Aboitiz Cleanergy Park in Punta Dumalag, to ensure that the nests are well-protected and cared for.

The sea turtle hatchlings released last March 29 emerged from an undiscovered third nest along the shore of the coal-fired power plant.

TSI named this batch of sea turtle hatchlings "Team Stingray" after Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio's son, whose birthday is on the same day.

"This occurrence reinforces the diversity of our marine ecosystem in the city. Having a coal-fired

power plant playing host to these hatchlings makes this event even more interesting," Duterte-Carpio said, adding that she would have joined in the releasing activity if not for prior commitments.

Assistant Secretary Ruth Tawantawan of Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region XI congratulated TSI for its efforts in protecting the nests and the marine ecosystem.

"The hatching of the *pawikans* has been an eye-opening experience. It is a small indicator that our environmental stewardship efforts are

bearing fruit. The presence of these endangered creatures inside the plant is proof of sustainable environmental conditions resulting from the steps we have taken to operate our power plants responsibly," said Danel Aboitiz, president and chief operating officer of the AboitizPower-Coal Business Unit.

Since sea turtles come back to the place where they hatch through magnetic imprinting, there might be other nests in the area. When the released hatchlings grow up, they may come back to the area to lay new nests and repeat the cycle.



04 APR 2019
DATE

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

GBP, WVSU partner for carbon sink project in Iloilo

Power generator Global Business Power Corp. (GBP) and West Visayas State University (WVSU) have partnered for a reforestation and carbon sink project in a 150-hectare tract of land in the province of Iloilo.

The Handumanan Reforestation and Carbon Sink Project aims to mitigate climate change and promote environmental awareness by planting trees that will serve as carbon sink. Handumanan is a Hiligaynon term that means "legacy."

GBP, through subsidiaries Panay Energy Development Corp. (PEDC) and Panay Power Corp. (PPC), has adopted a property owned by the WVSU-College of Agriculture and Forestry (CAF) in Barangays Jayubo and Sagcup in the municipality of Lambunao.

"The 150-hectare carbon sink area inside the WVSU-CAF campus highlights the shared commitment of GBP and WVSU to help conserve the environment and combat climate change," GBP president Jaime Azurin said.

"This partnership between Global Business Power Corp. and WVSU is one big step toward ensuring the survival of our future generation. Our joint effort to plant trees and preserve our forestland is a legacy of love for humanity and Mother Earth," said Luis Sorolla Jr., president of WVSU. The school considers the project its first PPP or public-private partnership.

The seven-year project will have the first four years devoted to planting and establishment of the reforestation areas, while the remaining three years will be for maintenance of the planted trees.

Under the memorandum of agreement, a minimum of 67,000 seedlings must be planted per year. Prior to coordination and preliminary work on the reforestation project, GBP had been conducting planting activities in the area since 2015. It is estimated that 1,666 trees can be planted in one hectare, with 2x3 meters of spacing between trees.

In support of the project's agroforestry component, two types of trees will be planted – forest trees native to the area like narra, and fruit-bearing trees like jackfruit. Tall forest trees provide canopy while shorter fruit-bearing trees provide livelihood.

The reforestation area will further be used for study as a laboratory for students of WVSU-CAF. The forest is home to endemic tree and animal species, with a nearby wildlife sanctuary for endemic animals in Panay, such as the Visayan spotted deer and the Visayan warty pig.



1/2

Elementary, high school students plant trees and move up

By EVA VISPERAS

SAN CARLOS CITY – About 10,000 elementary and high school students in public schools in this Pangasinan city each planted a fruit-bearing seedling prior to their graduation to help the environment and as their legacy to school and community.

San Carlos City Schools Division Superintendent Sheila Marie Primicias told **The STAR** this is one way of instilling in the students a love for nature especially when people are reeling from the effects of climate change.

Primicias said the students were taught how to properly plant the seedlings, which they either brought, grew, bought or got from their school campus or neighbor. Others coordinated with the City Agriculture Office, got their seedlings in their backyard, or in schools with the *Gulayan sa Paaralan*

project with fruit-bearing trees like *calamansi*, *guapple* and mango.

In the entire country, only San Carlos Schools Division is implementing this project, she said.

"If all students in all areas in the Philippines will plant a tree, what we are experiencing will be eased and flooding would also be eliminated," she said, lamenting that students seem to have forgotten the simple joys of planting saplings.

Students in her division were told to plant in any vacant space, with the permission of the lot owner, if they

do not have available space in their backyard.

What's heartening is even the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) and barangay councils have adopted the project "*Aksyon Pangkalikasan*," Primicias said, adding that she intends to convince private schools to emulate and adopt the project.

The planting of fruit-bearing trees started last week in time for graduation ceremonies on April 1. Primicias said a Department of Education order mandates that students must plant trees, but this is not always followed.

"So we make it mandatory and explained to other students in lower years to take care of these plants," she said.

Tree planting was done across San Carlos City, where teachers will validate if indeed the student already

planted a tree, she said.

"Their teachers know who planted because they accompanied their students in planting," Primicias said.

She said to ensure compliance of students, their teachers send a video to Primicias' social media account in Messenger for her to verify the report.

"That way, it's also paperless and it will again save time and help as well the environment," she added.

Several projects have been launched under the Save Mother Earth program like *Aksyong Pangkalikasan*, *Pangkalinisan*, *Pangkalusugan* and *Pangkagandahan*, ensuring a sustainable program that involves the community. A memorandum of agreement with the barangay is inked with the councils to ensure that the saplings will be protected and fully grown.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

B6
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

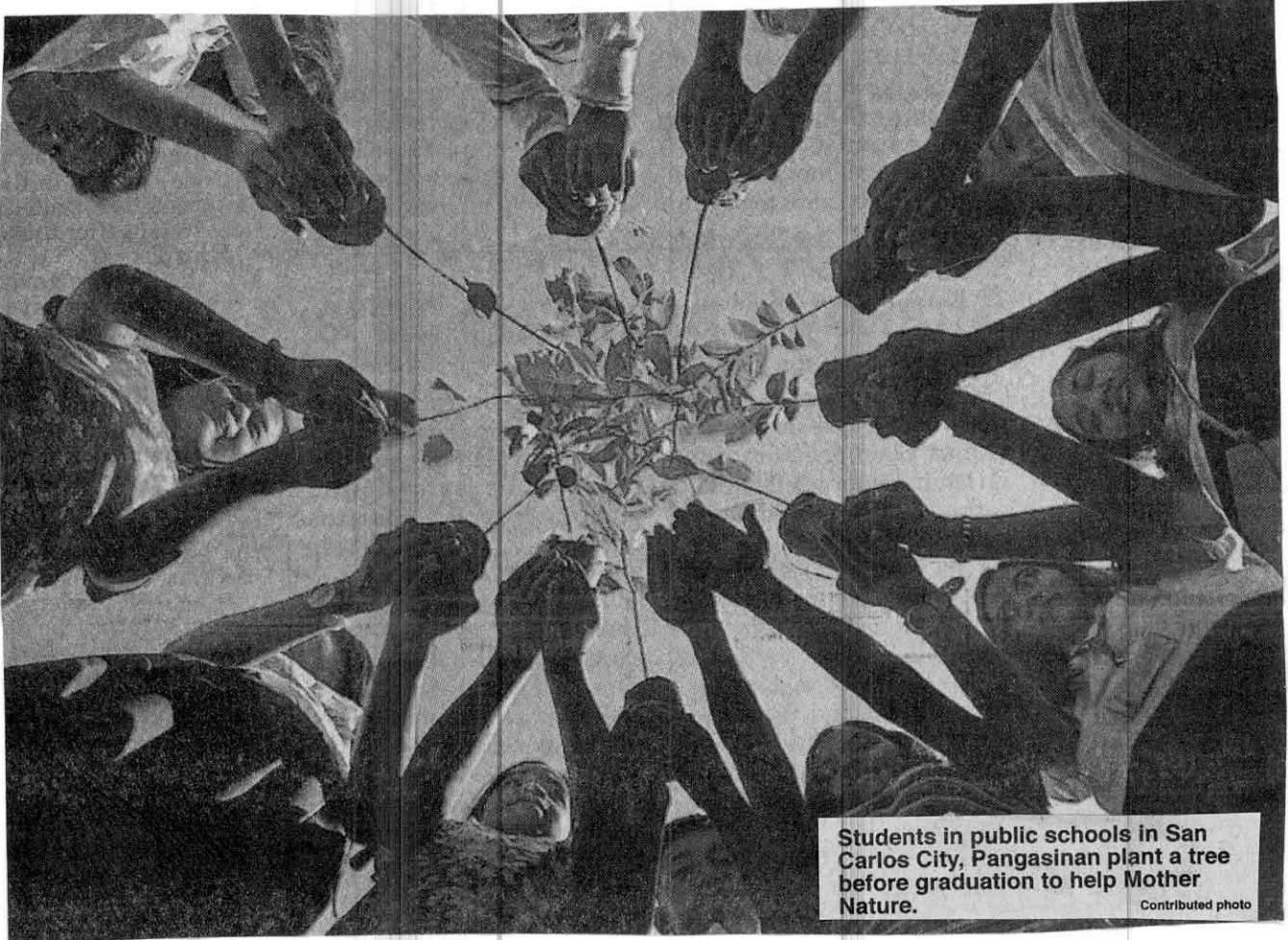
CARTOON

04 APR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/



Students in public schools in San Carlos City, Pangasinan plant a tree before graduation to help Mother Nature.

Contributed photo



Trusted Since 1939

The Manila Times

A2
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

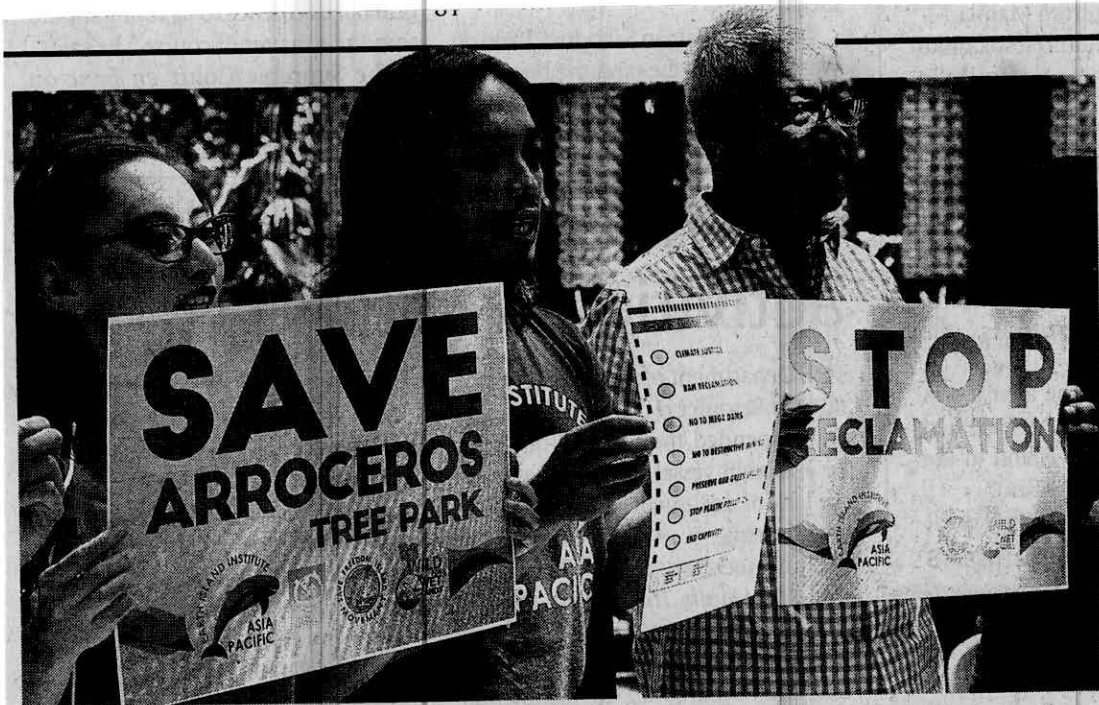
FEATURE
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 APR 2019

DATE



'STOP RECLAMATION' Environmental activists unite against the alleged destruction of the environment at a news briefing at the Arroceros in Manila on Wednesday. PHOTO BY RENE H. DILAN



Editorial

Magkaroon ng disiplina sa pagtatapon ng plastic na basura

KARAGATAN ang hantungan ng mga itinatapong basura sa ilog, sapa, estero, kanal, at iba pang waterways. Kapag hindi nagkaroon ng disiplina sa pagtatapon ng basura (lalo ang mga plastic), masisira ang kapaligiran. Mawawasak ang mundo. Pati mga lamandagat, apektado. Pati mga balyena, mamamatay dahil nakakakain ng plastic na tinapon ng tao.

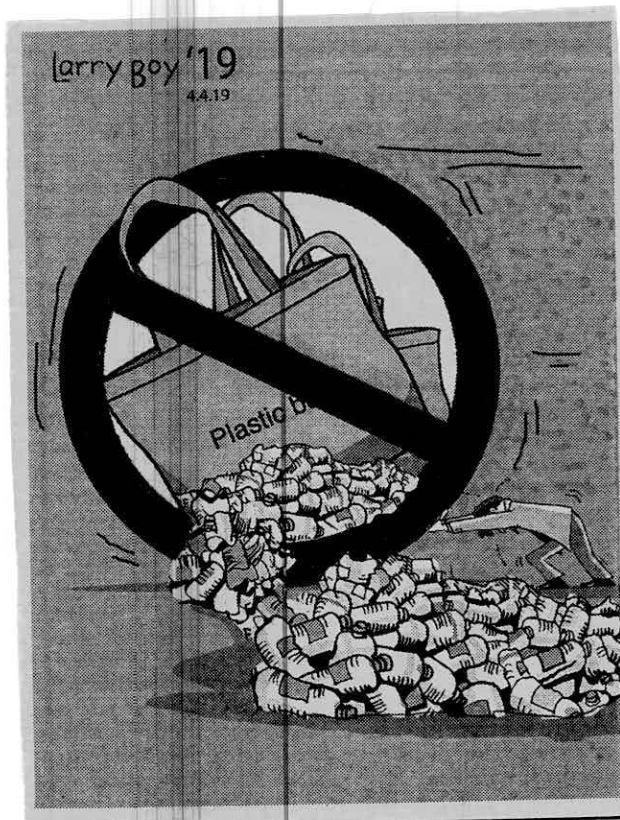
Ayon sa report, ikatlo ang Pilipinas sa mga bansa sa Southeast Asia na maraming itinatapong basurang plastic sa karagatan. Nangunguna ang China at ikalawa ang Indonesia. Ayon naman sa United Nations, panglima ang Pilipinas sa mga bansa sa buong mundo na contributors ng plastic wastes sa karagatan. Karaniwang makikita sa karagatan ay mga basyo ng softdrinks, mineral waters, plastic shopping bags, sache ng coffee, shampoo, noodles, toothpaste tube at maski mga sako ng bigas, at iba pang

basurang hindi natutunaw. Namumulaklak ang mga basurang plastic sa karagatan na hindi maubus-ubos.

Hinikayat naman ng pamahalaan ang publiko na limitahan ang paggamit ng plastics. Sabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo, narapat tumulong ang mamamayan para maisalba at maprotektahan ang kalikasan. Ang paghikayat na bawasan ang paggamit ng plastic ay kasunod ng pagdiriwang ng Earth Hour noong Sabado. Bahagi ng pagdiriwang ng Earth Hour ay ang sabay-sabay na pagpatay ng ilaw sa buong mundo sa loob ng isang oras.

Malaking problema ang basurang plastic. Sa kabila na marami nang mga bayan at siyudad ang nagbawal sa paggamit ng mga plastic na supot o shopping bags, marami pa rin ang hindi sumusunod. Dito sa Metro Manila, mayroon pa ring mga lungsod na hinahayaang gumamit ng supot na plastics ang mga kilalang mall. Dahil dito kaya walang katapusan ang pagkalat ng basurang plastic sa pamayanan. Wala ring epekto ang ginagawa ng ibang siyudad na paghihigpit sapagkat ang katabing bayan o lungsod ay patuloy sa paggamit ng plastic bag.

Nasa kamay ng local government units (LGUs) kung paano malilimitahan ang paggamit ng plastic sa pamayanan. Mag-isyu ng ordinansa na nagbabawal sa plastic bags o shopping bags sa mga malalaking mall. Ipatupad ito nang mahigpit at parusahan ang mga mayari ng malls na hindi susunod. Kailangan din namang madisiplina ang mamamayan na huwag tapon dito, tapon doon.





DIPLOMATIC POUCH

GORDON KRICKE

Oceans under threat

The oceans are still full of life, but they are also sick and it is getting worse every year. Climate change and increasing acidification are contributing to the destruction of corals reefs in tropical waters all over the world. Harmful practices, like dynamite fishing, are making things even worse. Overfishing is taking a terrible toll nearly everywhere. Almost 90 percent of the world's marine fish stocks are now fully exploited, overexploited or depleted.



And the oceans are getting choked by plastic. It is now everywhere in the seas. You can find it even in the most remote places, polluting the waters or littering the beaches. It has become one of the greatest environmental challenges the world is facing. A few days ago the European Parliament approved a law banning a wide-range of single-use plastic items, such as straws, cotton buds and cutlery, by 2021. That is important progress, but clearly not enough. Plastic pollution is a worldwide problem. More than

half of the plastic waste that enters the world's seas comes from just five countries in Asia. Therefore, I believe that the recent discussion in the Philippines on how to reduce plastic pollution is very important.

But there are other threats that are less well-known, invasive species for example. Organisms that have been introduced into an area where they aren't native can have a devastating impact on the ecosystem. You might ask aren't humans the most invasive species of all? Yes, probably. But even though, we're also the only species in any position to do anything about it. And that is what the Philippines and Germany, together with some other countries, are now trying to do in a new project. Well, I have to admit the name of this initiative, "GloFouling Partnership," doesn't seem very appealing at first glance. But is a very valuable collaboration between the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Program and the International Maritime Organization with the participation of 12 lead partnering states, among those our two countries. The objective is to limit the risk invasive species pose for the marine environment, especially those transferred by ships.

One should not underestimate the issue. Marine invasive species can hitchhike on ships or in ballast water in huge

numbers and put both ecosystems and economies at risk. And in a time of massive global trade where 45,000 cargo ships move more than 10 billion tons of ballast water worldwide each year, conditions are ripe for invasive species to spread. The result is an increasing number of ocean ecosystems, primarily near shorelines, that are being compromised or wiped out by non-native species. Invasive species that thrive usually do so because their new habitat lacks natural predators to control their population.

It is good news that Germany and the Philippines are working closely together for the protection of global marine environments. Germany is in fact a close partner of the Philippines in the fight against climate change and in the protection of biodiversity. Since several years already these are focal sectors of our official cooperation with the Philippines.

We cannot survive without our oceans which cover more than 70 percent of the planet. The "GloFouling Partnership" is just one useful and valuable step to save the marine environments. But much more has to be done to protect the oceans – and it has to be done now.

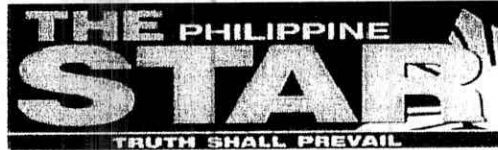
* * *

(Gordon Kricke is the Ambassador of Germany.)





STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



04 APR 2019
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

Finnish ore processing technology eyed for local steelmaking

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has tagged a Finnish ore processing technology being used in New Zealand that can enable the Philippines to manufacture steel out of its abundant magnetite sands.

In a 21-month research and development effort conducted by the DOST-Metals Industry Research and

Development Center (MIRDC) and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau-Department of Environment and Natural Resources (MGB-DENR), it was proven that the rotary kiln electric furnace-basic oxygen furnace (RKEF-BOF) furnace process used in New Zealand can be adopted here to make steel out of the Philippine's magnetite sands.

Agustin Fudolig, deputy executive director of MIRDC and leader of the R&D project, said that New Zealand magnetite ore was almost similar to the Philippine ore.

"Our magnetite ore is almost the same, it has the same titanium content and vanadium content," Fudolig told **The STAR**. "Using our magnetite resources, using local materials, we can make steel."

The findings of the collaboration project were presented at a lecture series conducted by the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines in partnership with the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria in Pasig City recently.

Fudolig said that the RKEF-BOF technology removes the need for steps that could add costs to magnetite ore processing for steel production.

"Once you get the (magnetite) sand, you just have to get the 58 percent iron content from it. You don't need to grind it. Just feed it to the New Zealand process, and you can make steel," Fudolig said.

The R&D discovered that the pro-

cess results in a byproduct of high-value vanadium. "The extraction of vanadium can make the operation more profitable," Fudolig said.

The process uses equipment developed and patented by Finnish technology company Outotec Oyj, and has been used in New Zealand to produce steel out of their own magnetite sands.

The Philippines currently exports its magnetite sand resources, mainly to China, and then imports more expensive crude steel, mostly from China, for use of local downstream steel manufacturing companies to produce reinforced steel bars, angle bars, steel wires and coils, and so-called finished "flat" steel products such as galvanized iron sheets, welded black iron pipes and tubes, and welded galvanized pipes and tubes.

Engineer Juancho Pablo Calvez, chief metallurgist of the MGB-DENR and a member of the R&D team, said the discovery of the vanadium byproduct in magnetite sand processing into steel bolstered the case for the country to pursue efforts in value-added processing of its mineral resources. — Rainier Allan Ronda



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



04 APR 2019

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

Group offers P10-B project to source water from Angat

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

A local consortium is set to submit a P10 billion unsolicited proposal to use excess water from the Angat hydroelectric power plant as a source of additional water supply.

The joint venture of ITP-Maharlika Bulk Water Co. proposed to supply about 800 million liters of raw water per day to optimize the excess water supply used for irrigation. ITP is the contractor of the P5.8-billion Balog-Balog storage dam. It was also previously involved with the Agus VI hydroelectric power plant in Mindanao.

ITP-Maharlika president Orville Roque said the first segment of the project aims to deliver 250 MLD of raw water to the existing Ipo Dam by 2022 to meet the short-term domestic water supply shortage.

The second segment, on the other hand, comprises 550 MLD of raw water which will come from

an artificial basin along the Angat River between the Ipo Dam and Matictic Bridge.

"Of the 1,800 MLD allocation for NIA (National Irrigation Administration), only 600 MLD are being used, so we want to maximize the system by creating an impounding dam," Roque said.

The project will be presented to the MWSS board for approval and will go through the National Economic and Development Authority- Investment Coordination Committee for original proponent status and will be subjected to the swiss challenge.

If approved, both concessionaires Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. would

buy raw water from the source to be treated for consumption, the consortium said.

The Norzagaray-Angat water supply optimization project aims to augment metro Manila's water demand requirements. It is among the short-term and medium-term water source projects of the government which include the 150 MLD Putatan, 100 MLD Cardona, 188 MLD Sumag, 50 MLD Rizal Wellfield, 80 MLD, Calawis Wawa, 100 MLD Putatan 3, and 600 MLD Kaliwa Dam.

Meanwhile, AMA Group Holdings said it was accelerating the construction of a 300 MLD world-class water treatment plant along Laguna Lake as part of efforts to help address the current water supply crisis in Metro Manila.

AMA chairman Amable Aguiluz said Laguna Lake, the country's biggest freshwater resource located

Turn to B4

Group offers... From B1

close to the heart of the National Capital Region, was already being harnessed by both Maynilad in Putatan, Muntinlupa City and Manila Water in Cardona, Rizal.

The project would be able to bring the much needed water supply augmentation within 10 months from its planned plant in an area close enough

to the metro area.

He said he would work out the required arrangements both with the Laguna Lake Development Authority and the MWSS in response to President Duterte's call to address the water supply problem on a long-term basis.

For this project, AMA Group is partnering with Ion Exchange, a Singapore-based company with projects all over

Asia, the latest of which is a \$200-million Sri Lanka water treatment plant.

AMA Water also tapped Aquagen Technologies Inc. (ATI) as its local technical advisor for the project.

Aguiluz is confident that AMA Water is well positioned to deliver clean affordable drinking water to the National Capital Region way ahead of other planned solutions

like the Kaliwa Dam which is scheduled to be operational by 2022.

Aguiluz is recognized as the father of IT education in the Philippines. As an educator, he has always advocated quality affordable education for all.

He now intends to provide every Filipino household safe, clean, adequate and potable drinking water.



1/2

Water for farms cut as Angat level drops

NIA reduces supply but assures Central Luzon agri areas have enough for irrigation

CITY OF MALOLOS—The supply of irrigation water for more than 27,000 hectares of rice farms in Bulacan and Pampanga provinces has started to diminish as the water level in Angat Dam continues to drop early this dry season.

On Monday, the water level plunged to 192.52 meters above sea level, 17.48 meters lower than its high normal level of 210 masl, Felicisima Mungal, head of the Bulacan provincial disaster risk reduction management office (PDRRMO), said.

The PDRRMO has been monitoring the water level in Angat Dam and those in Ipo and Bustos dams, all in Bulacan.

Metro consumers

Due to the drop, the regular 40 cubic meters per second volume of water being released for irrigation were cut to 35 cubic meters per second, said Felix Robles, National Irrigation Administration (NIA) director in Bulacan.

But he said the reduced volume remained sufficient for irrigating farms. More than 20,000 farmers in Bulacan and Pampanga are dependent on the irrigation water from Angat Dam.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) is scheduled to completely cut the supply of irrigation water from the dam by May 16, to al-



REDUCED SHARE Farmers in Bulacan province are assured of irrigation water supply from Angat Dam until May, although allocation has been reduced due to the dry spell. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

low the full use of its water for Metro Manila consumers.

Priority supply

"The diminishing supply for irrigation is a regular process to give way for the need of Metro Manila, which is the priority supply of Angat Dam," Robles said. The dam supplies 97 percent of Metro Manila's water requirements.

NWRB Executive Director Sevilla David Jr. said the cut would not affect the irrigation needs of farmers since they had already been har-

vesting their crops.

In previous years, the NWRB had been cutting the allocation of irrigation water during the first or second week of April when the water level in Angat Dam started to drop, Robles said.

"Come August and September, the dam can again start releasing irrigation water," he said.

Robles said Angat Dam is allowed to carry its maximum capacity of 212 masl every end of the year to irrigate farms during the dry season

the following year.

Cordillera rains

In Cordillera, the unexpected downpour in most parts of the region since Monday may have helped save crops that suffered from an early dry spell, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said.

"The rains were strong [in Apayao and other provinces on Monday]. We hope the rains could be sustained for a few days more," Cameron Odsey, DA director in Cordillera, said on Tuesday.

Cordillera crop losses had been pegged at P1.1 billion, with damage affecting 8,000 ha of farms, most of them planted to corn. The drought partially damaged 11,000 ha of farms in Apayao, Kalinga and Ifugao provinces.

In Cagayan Valley, the drought damaged P1.4 billion worth of crops in 66,963 ha while palay worth P702 million was destroyed in 48,394 ha.

Cagayan province was hardest hit with 35,054 ha of farms damaged, followed by Isabela, 8,145 ha, Nueva Vizcaya, 2,551 ha, and Quirino, 1,743 ha.

Last week, the Philippine Air Force placed one of its planes on standby to conduct cloud-seeding operations, said Narciso Edillo, DA director in Cagayan Valley. —REPORTS FROM CARMELA REYES-ESTROPE, VINCENT CABREZA AND VILLAMOR VISAYA JR. INQ



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

16
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 APR 2019

DATE

2/2

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

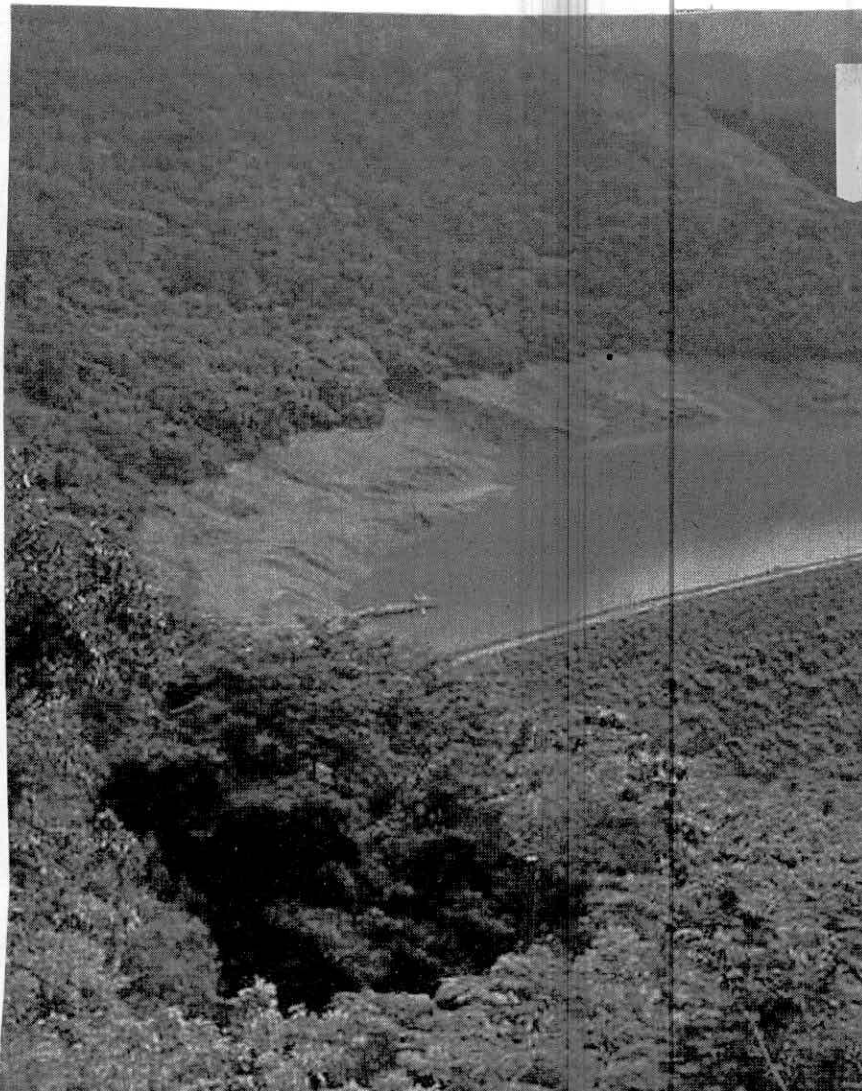
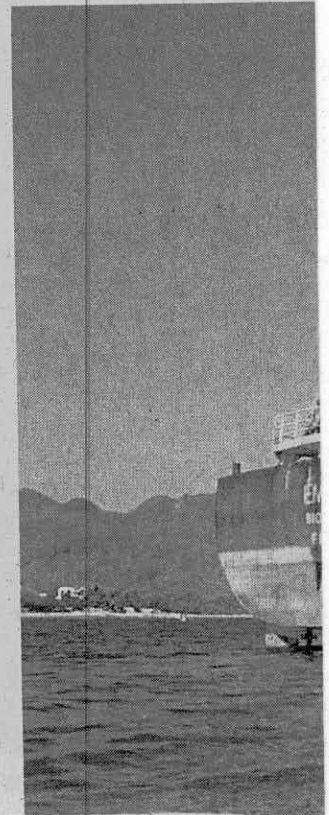
DENI by ship

FROM A1

By Jhesset O. Enano
and Maricar Cinco
@Team_Inquirer

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday suspended the environmental clearance certificate (ECC) for the dredging of a river in Batangas province following the unannounced arrival of a large Chinese-manned vessel close to a fishing village, a DENR official said on Wednesday.

Undersecretary Benny Aniporda said the department would also look into possible environmental destruction caused by the 2,990-ton MV Emerald, a hopper dredger, after it dropped anchor 500 meters from the 30-



METRO SOURCE Angat Dam in Bulacan province supplies water to household
have dropped to 179.8 meters above sea level, below its high normal level of 210
hectare mangrove reserve of Laga-dlarin village in Lobo town



Group eyes water impounding project in Bulacan

By Ronnel W. Domingo
@RonWDomingoINQ

A Filipino company is readying for submission this month an unsolicited proposal to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to build a water impounding project in Bulacan that may provide up to 800 million liters daily (MLD) for Metro Manila

and adjacent provinces.

Orville M. Roque, president of the project's proponent, ITP-Maharlika Bulk Water Co. Joint Venture, yesterday told reporters that their proposed Angat-Norzagaray Optimization Project would cost P9 billion to P10 billion.

"We plan to do this through a 25-year, build-operate-transfer contract," Roque said. "We can

finish the first phase in two years from the time of approval."

He said the company's target was to complete the construction of the first phase by June 2022.

"We have been coordinating with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), which has the right to use the water coming from Bustos Dam which, in turn, is fed by the Angat Dam

that is also in Bulacan."

Water flow from Bustos averages 1,800 MLD, but NIA is using only 600 MLD, Roque said.

He said the proposed project was meant to store a big part of the unused 1,200 MLD from Bustos.

"We can have the first phase ready with 250 MLD and the intention is to have both Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Wa-

ter Services Inc. as off-takers," Roque said.

He said ITP-Maharlika had been working on the proposal for more than a year and had been coordinating with MWSS Administrator Reynaldo Velasco on this.

He said Velasco had stressed the need for a project like this considering that the Kaliwa Dam project was not progressing.

"We hope that our proposal be taken up and that it would pass through the entire approval process by June next year," he added.

By law, an unsolicited proposal needs to undergo a Swiss challenge or presented with a rival proposal. It also needs the approval of the National Economic and Development Authority. INQ



42

JV offers yet another dam project

BY JED MACAPAGAL

ITP-Maharlika Bulk Water Co. proposes to construct an impounding dam that would use flood water in Bulacan in Angat River by harnessing both Angat and Bustos dams.

The project, which is expected to cost no more than P10 billion, will not just solve the flooding in Bulacan during the rainy season but will also provide water supply during the summer season in Metro Manila through the impounding dam.

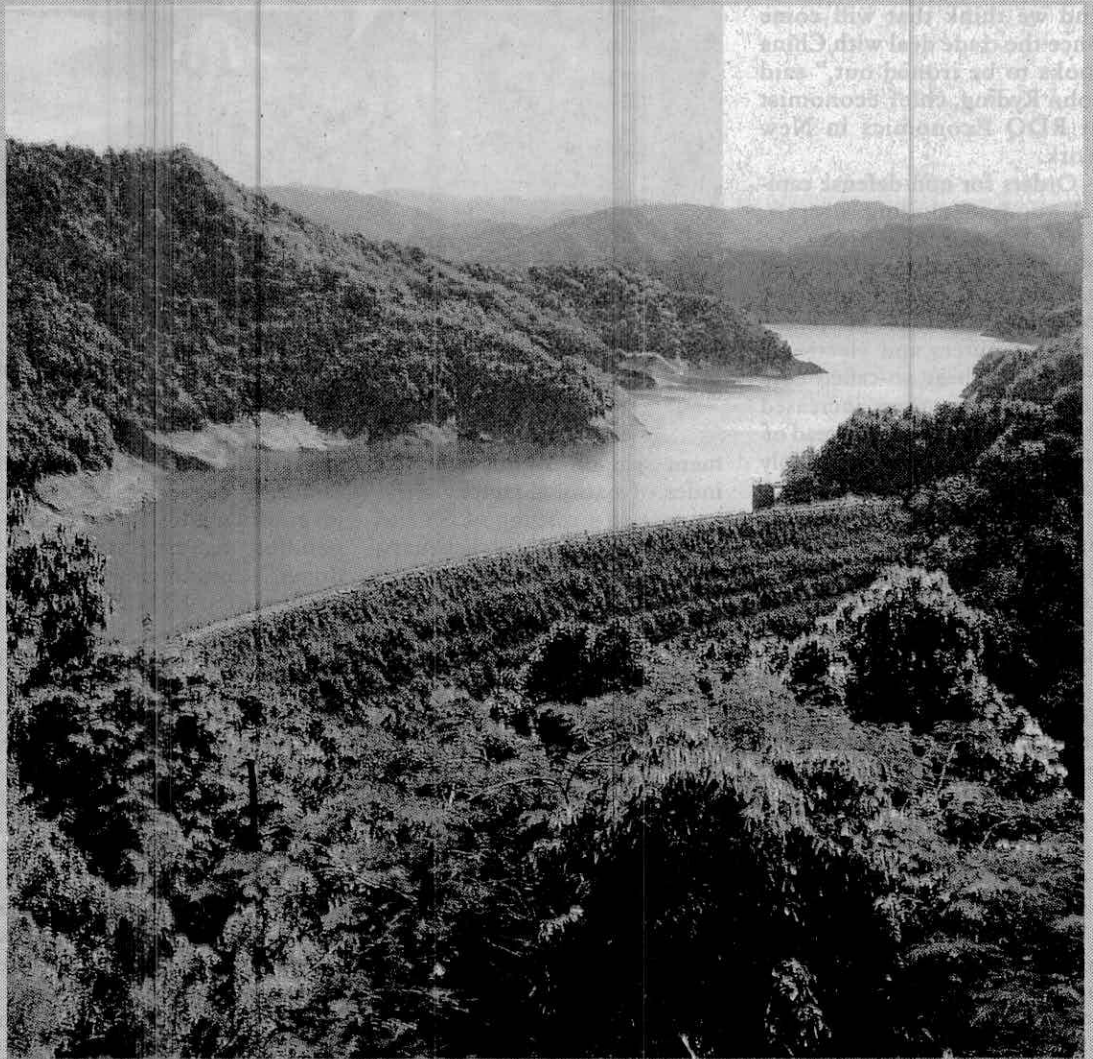
ITP Construction Inc. is involved in two dam projects while Maharlika is owned by Orville Roque, who is connected to a management consultancy company.

Roque, who is also ITP-Maharlika president, told reporters in a briefing in Quezon City yesterday, the company will submit within the month the unsolicited proposal on the project to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

"We plan to put up an impounding dam and basin. Our estimate is it will not cost more than P10 billion for a water capacity of up to 800 million liters per day (MLD). We are going to maximize the use of water that is already available," said Roque.

He said the project will have two phases: the first will have a capacity of 250 to 300 MLD which can be completed as early as 2022 and the second, 450 to 500 MLD with an indicative completion date by 2025.

The project will be undertaken under a build-operate-transfer contract through public-private partnership.



Flooding solved. Excess water from Angat dam can be impounded for use by the concessionaires during summer months.

"Initially, both Manila Water (Co.) and Maynilad (Water Services Inc.) will use the water supply of the project but the moment they can already source enough water from their own projects, Bulacan can already use that supply," Roque said.

But he said the JV has yet to settle some issues before proceeding with the project, including the approval of the MWSS especially on tariff setting. It also has to secure original proponent status from the National Economic and De-

velopment Authority (NEDA).

The company is in talks with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) as the attached agency has the rights for the water that it is eyeing to utilize for the impounding dam.

Roque said ITP-Maharlika will provide at least 20 percent equity of the project cost while the remaining will be financed by multilateral agencies including the World Bank and the International Finance Corp.

In the same briefing, MWSS administrator Reynaldo Velasco, said ITP-Maharlika's

project has been "approved in principle" by the board of the regulatory body.

"The project was our idea and we asked them to look at it since they have the technical capabilities... In principle, this is already approved but their feasibility study will be subject for the approval of the MWSS board. It will undergo Swiss challenge and if nobody will challenge (the project), they (ITP-Maharlika) will proceed and seek for NEDA's



Malaya Business Insight

A1
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 APR 2019

DATE

2/2

JV

approval," Velasco said.

He said NEDA itself also has its own study, sponsored by the Asian Development Bank, on the utilization of the flood water in Bulacan during the rainy season.

However, Velasco believes ITP-Maharlika's project is better since this will be built at no cost to government.

ITP Construction Inc. was involved in the construction

of NIA's Balog-Balog storage dam and its appurtenant structures.

ITP, together with Guangxi Hydroelectric Construction Bureau Co., Ltd., won the contract for the P5.8 billion storage dam in Tarlac that will irrigate a total of 34,410 hectares and will serve at least 23,000 farmers and can mitigate flooding in low-lying areas.

~



What we need: Long-term water security

During his first State of the Nation Address, President Benigno Aquino III singled out the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for all the wrong reasons. He painted the water agency as the mother of all corruption. The agency's payroll reached an obscene P211.5 million annually. For every meeting, each director got P14,000 or P98,000 per month, plus P80,000 annual grocery incentive, a midyear bonus, productivity bonus, anniversary bonus, yearend bonus and Christmas bonus. Each director received P2.5 million exclusive of car service and other financial assistance.

But barely 11 months into the job, then administrator Gerry Esquivel and chair Ramon Alikpala turned things around. They replaced the board of trustees with people of professional qualifications, stopped the financial hemorrhage by cutting down board meetings from seven times a month to only once a month, broke the bad habits of employees who were used to political patronage, instituted a series of seminars and lectures on professional management, etc. Most importantly, they laid down the groundwork of a transformational plan that would assure long-term water security for the rapidly growing population of Metro Manila.

The components of the plan were: water infrastructure development; natural water resource management and protection; disaster management and mitigation; management of water distribution, sewerage and sanitation through closer concessionaire partnership; and water appreciation and discipline.

Under Esquivel, the MWSS reasserted its role as overseer of the metropolis' water sup-

COMMENTARY

CARLOS A. AGATEP

ply. While various aspects had been devolved to private concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad, which had to their credit fulfilled most of their key performance commitments, the MWSS assumed ultimate responsibility for an adequate and safe water supply.

MWSS officials worked jointly with the two concessionaires to draw up a comprehensive road map for water and waste management of Metro Manila. They revised standards and challenged old practices. Using the concession agreement as guide, they redefined roles and relationships between MWSS and the two concessionaires.

One of the most ominous situations at the time was the almost exclusive reliance on the La Mesa watershed for our water needs, which Alikpala likened to putting all our eggs in one basket. The MWSS board and management teams prioritized the exploration and development of new water sources. Studies on water demand and pricing were completed. The World Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency gave generous grants, and local partners like the University of the Philippines National Engineering Center and the National Water Resources Board huddled with the MWSS to come up with imaginative solutions.

Esquivel's team made a study of seven alternative priority water sources to address a demand gap of an estimated 500 million liters

per day by the end of President Aquino's term. They put together a set of proposals to develop Kaliwa Dam as a public-private project that would have assured adequate water supply for many years. But the incoming new administration decided to obtain funds through government loans from other countries, which completely derailed the project.

MWSS was spearheading the creation of a comprehensive watershed protection and management plan for a number of watersheds, including Umiray, Ipo, Angat, La Mesa and Marikina, with other agencies and nongovernment organizations included in the effort. Even Manila Bay continued to be under the watchful eye of MWSS, which tasked the concessionaires with sewer and sanitation coverage targets, treatment of pollution loadings and such.

MWSS scrutinized its concessionaire partnership and business plan, including rate rebasing preparations (which ultimately puts your monthly bill under the microscope). Entitled "Water Appreciation and Discipline Communications," the plan was four-pronged and highly operationalized.

During the Aquino administration, the MWSS was planning for the far future. It was able to shed its mantle of shame to assert its role in assuring the water supply of the country's premier metropolis. We hope the present MWSS team will revisit what Esquivel and his management team had begun, and focus on leaving a water security legacy for the next 50 years.

Carlos A. Agatep is chair and CEO of Grupo Agatep.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



B6
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 APR 2019

DATE

TITLE :

PAGE 1/



A ceremonial signing of Executive Order 001-2019 declaring March 5 as annual Geothermal Energy Day in Sorsogon was held together with Energy Development Corp. corporate social responsibility head lawyer Allan Barcena, Gov. Robert Lee Rodriguez, Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee, Sorsogon PENRO-LGU engineer Maribeth Fruto, and EDC Bacman corporate social responsibility head Eduardo Jimenez. The event coincided with the Climate Challenge Summit organized by the provincial government of Sorsogon and The Climate Reality Project-Philippines, which aimed to raise awareness among local communities on the importance of environmental conservation, sustainability and cleaner energy.



Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times

A3
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 APR 2019

DATE

AIR POLLUTION SHORTENS LIFE OF CHILDREN IN ASIA

HONGKONG: Air pollution will shorten the life expectancy of children born today by an average of 20 months and will have the greatest impact in South Asia, according to a study published Wednesday.

The *State of Global Air* report, published by US-based Health Effects Institute and the University of British Columbia, says air pollution is the fifth leading cause of early death worldwide — responsible for more deaths than malaria, road accidents,

malnutrition or alcohol.

However, it warns “the loss of life expectancy is not borne equally,” with children in South Asia set to have their lives cut short by 30 months because of a combination of outdoor air pollution and dirty indoor air.

In east Asia, the study says air pollution would shorten children’s lives by an estimated 23 months — compared with around 20 weeks for children in developed parts of Asia Pacific and North America.

The report, which uses data up to the end of 2017, estimates that if air pollution levels were brought within World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, life expectancy in Bangladesh would see the highest expected gain, at nearly 1.3 years.

India, Nigeria and Pakistan would all see average life expectancy increase by around one year.

Despite state reforms to reduce pollution levels, China remains the

country with the highest mortality rate due to air pollution, responsible for around 852,000 pollution-related deaths in 2017.

The top five countries with the highest mortality rate due to air pollution were all in Asia: China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

In total, the report says 147 million years of healthy life were lost in 2017 globally due to pollution.

Exposure to household air pollution — mostly from people burning coal, wood or charcoal to cook or heat their homes — is most common in South Asia, East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Nearly half of the world’s population is exposed to household air pollution, including an estimated 846 million people in India and 452 million in China.

A study last October from the WHO found that exposure to toxic air both in-

doors and out kills some 600,000 children under the age of 15 each year.

It found that children were often more vulnerable to the impact of air pollution since they breathe more rapidly than adults, thus absorb more pollutants at a time when their brains and bodies are still developing.

Data from the United Nations health body said that every day, 93 percent of children under the age of 15 breathe in dangerously polluted air.

AFF



Trusted Since 1898

The Manila Times



04 APR 2019

DATE

Editorial

BEWARE THIS LITTLE KNOWN FACT:

El Niño can spawn strong, wild typhoons

As the country struggles with soaring temperatures, water shortages and agricultural losses due to the ongoing El Niño climate phenomenon and the onset of summer, the typhoon season is likely very far from anyone's thoughts. The current conditions, however, should remind us to take the opportunity to be prepared for what recent history suggests may be a bad storm season.

El Niño is a cyclic climate phenomenon that occurs at irregular intervals of two to five years, and can last from nine months up to two years. It is characterized by warm ocean water moving eastward across the Pacific, and its most immediate impact on our part of the world is significantly drier-than-usual weather.

Agricultural losses from the El Niño-induced drought have already exceeded P5 billion, and are certain to increase, even though weather forecasters have determined that the El Niño has peaked and will begin to dissipate in the coming months. While the drought is not solely to blame for recent water shortages affecting millions in Metro Manila and surrounding areas, it certainly aggravated existing water management problems, and is making recovery from those difficult.

Information from the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows that the current El Niño event is the seventh one to occur since the year 2000. The previous one, one of the strongest on record, lasted from 2014-2016. Others occurred in 2002-2003, 2004-2005, 2006-2007 and 2009-2010.

One effect of El Niño that is not so well known is that it corresponds to the formation of strong typhoons -- the warming of the ocean surface atmosphere allows moisture-rich air to rise and develop possibly into wild rainstorms. Strong typhoons do not occur only during El Niño years, of course; some of the most horrific storms in recent years such as Typhoon Frank (2008) and Typhoon Yolanda (2013) did not. But historically, El Niño years have always produced strong typhoons. In 2003, the country was struck by no fewer than five destructive typhoons; 2004's Typhoon Winnie killed nearly 1,600 people; Typhoon Reming (2006) added 1,400 more deaths and P5 billion in property damage; Ondoy and Pepeng (2009) did almost P50 billion in damage between them; Typhoons Juan (2010), Glenda (2014) and Lando (2015) cost P12 billion, P39 billion and P14.4 billion respectively, as well as hundreds of dead, injured, and missing people.

Given such history, it would be foolish to ignore the inevitable: In the months to come, at least some parts of the Philippines will be affected by a destructive typhoon. The time to prepare for that eventuality is now. And while government at all levels has important responsibilities for those preparations, we, as individuals and families, must also do our part to safeguard ourselves, our loved ones and our communities.

Some steps ordinary citizens can take to ensure their safety include checking the soundness of their homes, particularly roofs, windows and doors, and making necessary repairs. Inquire at your *barangay* or municipal offices to find out whether your home is in a hazard area, and if so, what procedures are to be followed in case of an evacuation. Discuss emergency preparedness with your family. And of course, gathering and keeping handy a supply of essentials for use in an emergency -- canned and dried foods, clean drinking water, medications, extra clothing and useful items such as candles and spare batteries -- now, when there is no emergency and supplies are plentiful and reasonably priced, could spell the difference between quick recovery and tragedy later on.

We cannot control what nature may throw at us, but with a little forethought, we can survive it and return to our normal lives more quickly.



Founded 1859

The Manila Times

AS
PAGE

UPPER
 LOWER

PAGE 1
 STORY

BATTER
 STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04 APR 2019
DATE

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Green urbanism

1/2

GREEN urbanism is the principle of creating communities beneficial to people's health and the environment. It is a key solution to modern-day sustainability issues, which cities all over the world are facing. Vancouver, Singapore, Boston, Portland, and Scandinavian cities are innovating creative solutions to address problems of waste management, housing affordability, urban transport, and biodiversity conservation and transforming them into opportunities for development. In the 1980s, Portland, Oregon imposed a legally binding "growth boundary" to protect forests and farms from urban sprawl. Solar cities and districts in Austria and Germany represent a milestone in sustainable urban development when they successfully reduced their carbon emissions. In 2015, the Swedish city of Växjö became entirely independent from fossil fuels. The industrial park in Kalundborg, Denmark is often cited as a model for industrial ecology, and the city of Waitakere in Auckland, New Zealand is the first ever eco-city in the world.

In the Philippines, we are familiar with how rapid urbanization presents several social and environmental challenges. Our cities are congested with traffic and easily inundated, and millions of people continue to suffer from lack of affordable housing. Natural calamities and climate change — often the consequences of the abuse of natural resources — exacerbate urban management problems. Our profession as architects and urban planners gives us opportunities to directly enhance people's quality of life by designing and implementing preventive measures that lessen the negative impacts of natural and man-made calamities. To do this, we must be aware of and integrate the three pillars of green urbanism in city planning: energy and materials, water and biodiversity, and urban planning and transport to improve life in the city.

In a nutshell, the triple zero bottom line — zero fossil fuel energy use, zero waste, and zero emissions — is key to a sustainable community. With this in mind, we can explore the possibilities of designing environments that integrate the principles of green urbanism. I will briefly comment on a list of 15 principles of green urbanism taken from the book of Dr. Steffen Lehmann entitled *The Principles of Green Urbanism: Transforming the City for Sustainability* (2010). As I see it, we should consider the following trends for planning and designing a sustainable city:

- Study the site's climate and context by identifying opportunities through the city's topography, landscape, and microclimate, which can reduce the environmental footprint.
- Using renewable energy for zero carbon emission means transforming the city into a self-sufficient, on-site energy producer that uses decentralized district energy systems.
- A zero-waste city establishes waste management systems that transform waste into energy.
- Reduce water consumption, find more efficient uses for water resources, and ensure good water quality and the protection of aquatic habitats.
- Providing access to public parks, gardens, and public spaces with opportunities for leisure and recreation are essential components of a healthy city.
- With regard to sustainable transport and good public space, compact and polycentric cities enable urban mobility and safety. How can we get people out of their cars to walk, cycle, and use public transport?
- Advocate green manufacturing



FELINO A. PALAFOX, JR.

and an economy of means. Process-integrated technologies reduce waste. It is more environment-friendly to use lightweight structures, enclosures, and local materials requiring minimal transport.

- Mixed-use typologies, green transit-oriented developments, and vertical infrastructure promote a highly interconnected and sustainable community.
- Green buildings and districts use passive design principles and may offer solar access designed with green architectural strategies.
- Land use development patterns are key to sustainability. Generally, mixed-use and mixed-income cities deliver more social sustainability and social inclusion.
- Encourage local gardening and farm-to-table practices.
- Promote locally owned business that support creativity and cultural development to preserve cultural heritage, identity, and sense of place.
- Improvement of urban governance, leadership, and best practices in the Philippine setting are largely determined by the strength of political will.
- Educate citizens about waste recycling, water efficiency, and sustainable behavior. Changes in people's attitude and personal lifestyles are necessary. In addition, transform the city to a hub of learning institutions such as galleries, libraries and, museums where knowledge can be shared.

There are specific sustainability strategies for cities in developing countries and low-cost solutions appropriate for each region. Examples of these strategies are: coordination of low-cost building and mass housing projects with poverty reduction programs; training local government units to empower communities; creation of new jobs and diversification of job structures; and combating climate change, to name a few.



Trusted Since 1938

The Manila Times



04 APR 2019

DATE

2/2

Build Better Berde is the metropolitan vision for creating an accessible, sustainable, diverse, and prosperous Metropolitan Davao. In the Urban Master Plan of Metro Davao, we at Palafox Associates and Palafox Architecture Group integrated the principles of green urbanism to initiate the transformation of the city into a platform through which everyone can participate in developing better living and working conditions. Metro Davao will be walkable, vibrant, and have open spaces for everyone's well-being and enjoyment. The metropolis was also designed to support business and economic opportunities without sacrificing the quality of the environment. To achieve more sustainable cities, architects and urban planners need to understand and apply the core principles of green urbanism in a systematic and adaptive way, tailored to the context of the project and to the site's constraints and opportunities. It boils down to identifying and implementing the principles of a healthy community.

Little by little, promising signs of green urbanism have begun in cities and provinces all over the Philippines. In many ways, all of us can be contributors to greener and more sustainable communities. Let us continue to hope that more leaders and fellow Filipinos will appeal for greener measures in planning buildings and communities, and may these aspirations lead to healthier cities and environments.