

DATE : 14 APR 2019

DAY : Sunday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**



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## Angat Dam aabot sa critical level

NAGBABALA ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na posibleng umabot sa critical level ang tubig sa Angat Dam sa pagtatapos ng Abril.

Inanunsyo ng NWRB

na umabot noong Biyernes sa 187.7 meters above sea level ang tubig sa nasabing dam, pitong metro na lamang na mas mataas sa 180 meters na itinuturing na critical level.

Umapela naman ang

ahensya sa mga residente sa Metro Manila na magtipid sa paggamit ng tubig.

Umapel sa 96 porsyento ng tubig na ginagamit ng mga residente sa Metro Manila ay mula sa Angat Dam.

Sa ngayon ay pansamantala munang inihinto ng Angat Dam ang pagbibigay ng tubig sa ilang agricultural land sa Bulacan at Pampanga.

Ipinaliwang ng NWRB na prayoridad ang pagbibigay ng tubig sa mga residente sa Metro Manila at mga kalapit na lugar.

Nauna eito ay ikinukunsidera na rin ng gobyerno ang pagsasagawa ng cloud seeding sa ibabaw ng Angat Dam para madagdagan ang imbak ng tubig lalo't umiiral sa bansa ang El Niño. — *Radio Inquirer*



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## ANGAT DAM POSIBLENG UMABOT SA CRITICAL LEVEL

**NABABAHALA** ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na posibleng umabot sa critical level ang tubig sa Angat Dam sa mga susunod na linggo.

Ayon sa NWRB, umabot nitong Biyernes sa 187.7 meters above sea level ang tubig sa

nasabing dam na pitong metro na lamang na mas mataas sa 180 meters na itinuturing na critical level.

Dahil dito, umapela ang NWRB sa mga residente sa Metro Manila na magtipid sa paggamit ng tubig.

Nabatid na umaabot sa 96 percent ng tubig na

ginagamit ng mga residente sa Metro Manila ay mula sa Angat Dam.

Sa kasalukuyan, pansamantala munang inihinto ng Angat Dam ang pagbibigay ng tubig sa ilang agricultural land sa Bulacan at Pampanga.

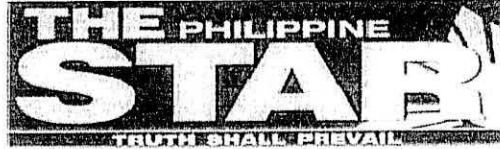
Paliwanag ng NWRB, prayoridad ang pagbibigay ng tubig sa

mga residente sa Metro Manila at mga kalapit na lugar.

Nauna rito, ikinukonsidera na rin ng pamahalaan ang pag-sasagawa ng cloud seeding sa ibabaw ng Angat Dam para madagdagan ang imbak ng tubig lalo't umiiral sa bansa ang El Niño.



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# Rody urged to issue EO expediting water projects

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) yesterday urged President Duterte to issue an executive order aimed at expediting water projects following the recent

supply crisis in Metro Manila.

"I will recommend the issuance of an executive order by President Duterte to fast track the water security roadmap of the administration for Metro Manila and its serviced areas," said MWSS administrator Reynaldo Velasco.

With the concurrence of the MWSS Board, the water agency has crafted a short-, medium- and long-term water security roadmap that will provide potable and sustainable water supply in the next five, 10 and even 50 years with an increase of at least 1,518 million

liters per day (MLD) by 2022.

Being fast tracked under the new water security roadmap are the 150 MLD Putatan facility, 100 MLD Cardona facility, 188 MLD Sumag, 50 MLD Rizal Wellfield, 80 MLD Calawis

Wawa, 100 MLD Putatan 3, and 250 MLD Lower Ipo.

These are aside from the ongoing 600 MLD Kaliwa Dam project, which is expected to be completed in 2023.

Being eyed as medium-term water source projects from 2023 to 2027 are the 420 MLD Wawa Dam, 250 MLD East Bay, 350

MLD Bayabas Dam, 550 MLD Angat Norzagaray Phase 2, 250 MLD East Bay, 750 MLD Sierra Madre and 1,800 MLD Kanan River Phase 1.

To complement the New Water Security Roadmap 2019 to 2022, Velasco said there is an urgent need to fast track the completion of Aqueduct 6 and

Tunnel 4 that are expected to be operational by January 2020.

MWSS also expects to complete in June 2022 the Aqueduct 7 and Tunnel 5 that are now on stream to provide another 1,600 MLD to flow towards La Mesa.

The completion of these aqueducts and tunnel system will optimize the flow of excess water from Angat to La Mesa Dam.

Meanwhile, Manila Water said its Cardona Water Treatment Plant will be operating at 50 MLD starting Monday, and will increase to 100 MLD in August this year.

The Cardona Water Treatment Plant is a component of the Rizal Province Water Supply Improvement Project, one of two Manila Water project proposals for additional raw water supply, the other being Tayabasan River Water Supply project.



Trusted Since 1898

# The Manila Times

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## 1.5 tons of endangered giant clams seized in NOccidental

**BACOLOD CITY:** An estimated 1.5 tons of endangered giant clams were seized on Thursday and three fishers were arrested in a village in Sagay City, Negros Occidental.

The police arrested Felix Causapin, 60; Lito Cañete, 49; and Adan Atabelo, 54, all residents of Barangay Molocaboc.

Sagay City police chief Maj. Antonio Benitez Jr., said they served the search warrant against the suspects in the company of officials from the Negros Occidental Protected Area Management Board, Task Force Lawod, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The search warrant was in relation to violation of Republic Act 10654 or "An act to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing."

Judge Joanne Fraces Nifras of the Municipal Trial Court in Cadiz City signed the warrant dated April 3, 2019.

A total of 127 pieces of giant clams, also known locally as manlot were recovered.

Jose Roberto Togle, resource assessment head of the Sagay Marine Reserve, said they had received a report from concerned citizens of Molocaboc that the arrested men had been hoarding the clams since February and they had been verifying reports about this in the past months.

Mayo Antonio Cueva, superintendent of the Sagay Marine Reserve, then ordered a subsequent investiga-

tion after a concerned citizen reported the incident.

The arrested fishers were allegedly contracting with an anonymous buyer who offered to buy the clams at P1,000 per kilo, Togle said.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature identified the giant clams as a vulnerable species, facing a high-risk of extinction in the wild.

The law also imposes on the offender a fine equivalent to five times the value of the species or P500,000 to P5,000,000 and imprisonment of 12 to 20 years and a fine equivalent to twice the administrative fine, forfeiture of the species and the cancellation of fishing permit.

Togle said some of the manlot they recovered were about a meter wide and there were some that were already 50 years old.

Sagay City Mayor Alfredo Marañon 3rd in a statement said, "the crime against our environment is a crime against our very own survival as vulnerable species like giant clamsthat play a critical role in protecting our reefs."

Marañon recommended to authorities that the confiscated clams be turned over to the Museo sang Bata sang Negros for educational purposes.

"We commend the efforts of our raiding team against the perpetrators and I hope this will serve as a strong message to everyone that we will continue to protect the Sagay Marine Reserve at all cost," the mayor said.

**EUGENE Y. ADIONG**



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## Water recycling, isabatas—Tolentino

Bilang sagot sa krisis sa tubig sa bansa, iminungkahi ng environmental lawyer at kandidato sa pagkasenador na si Atty. Francis Tolentino na isabatas na ang water recycling.

Ipinahayag ito ni Tolentino sa gitna ng matinding krisis sa tubig, na bunsod ng El Niño sa malaking bahagi ng bansa.

Nakikita ni Tolentino na solusyon sa krisis ang water recycling.

“May mga kumpanya na sa bansa na may mga pasilidad para sa water recycling. Subalit marami pa rin ang wala. Kaya dapat na maisabatas ang pagkakaroon ng malalaking establisimento ng mga kagamitan at pasilidad para sa water recycling,” ani Tolentino.

“Malaki ang pangangailangan ng mga higitang malls at hotels, halimbawa, para sa tubig. Ang pagkakaroon ng water treatment at recycling facility para sa mga negosyong mataas ang demand sa tubig ay makatutulong upang makabawas sa bigat ng demand at upang madala ang ibang supply nito sa mga komunidad at kabahayan.”

Dagdag pa ni Tolentino, dapat na maglaan ng insentibo—tulad ng tax discounts—ang pamahalaan para sa mga kumpanya at negosyong mayroong water recycling facility.



## Tolentino pushes water recycling law

Environmental lawyer and administration senatorial candidate Atty. Francis Tolentino has said a water recycling law is needed as a long-term solution in addressing the nation's water crisis.

He made the statement amid the lack of water supply in many parts of the country due to El Niño.

For Tolentino, water recycling is an immediate solution to the crisis.

"May mga kompanya na sa bansa na may mga pasilidad para sa water recycling. Subalit marami pa rin ang wala. Kung kaya nga dapat na maisabatas ang pagkakaroon ng mga malalaking establisimento ng mga kagamitan at pasilidad para sa water recycling," Tolentino said.

"Malaki ang pangangailangan ng mga higanteng malls at hotels halimbawa para sa tubig. Ang pagkakaroon ng water treatment at recycling facility para sa mga negosyong mataas ang demand para sa tubig ay makatutulong upang makabawas sa bigat ng demand



**TOLENTINO** (FB photo)

upang madala ang ibang suplay sa mga komunidad at kabahayan." Tolentino added that the government should also grant incentives to enterprises that will install water recycling facility in their establishments. Through this, businesses will be encouraged to invest in the facility.

"Tax discounts ang insentibong naisip ko. Subalit marami pang mga insentibo ang maaring mailaan ng pamahalaan. Sa mga kompanya naman, maari ding maging bahagi ng kanilang corporate responsibility policy ang pagtatatag ng water recycling system bilang tulong nila sa pagsagip at pagpapanatili sa kalikasan ng bansa."





## Coca-Cola, BIATF unite for environmental stewardship

**THROUGH** the World Without Waste vision, the Coca-Cola System in the Philippines once again demonstrates its firm commitment toward environmental preservation and stewardship by providing a top-of-the-line cleaning machinery to the municipality of Malay, Aklan, which aims to service and help the community in their thrust for a continuous responsible care of Boracay's beaches.

The partnership strives to be among the perfect examples of the private sector and the public sphere coming together for the responsible stewardship of the nation's natural resources.

"The collaboration with the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) attests that we are a staunch partner of the government in looking for opportunities to further the country's goals towards environmental preservation," says Gareth McGeown, CEO & President of Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines (CCBPI), the bottling arm of Coca-Cola in the Philippines.

"This endeavor also reaffirms our dedication to attaining the vision of a World Without Waste, and we are committed to working with all stakeholders toward realizing this goal. We are grateful for this opportunity to join hands and work earnestly with like-minded institutions in

government."

Together, CCBPI and the Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines held on March 28, 2019, a ceremonial turnover of the equipment to the Municipal Government of Aklan and to members of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF)—represented by Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, and Tourism Undersecretary Edwin Enrile—to further pursue environmental stewardship via a sustainable and holistic plan that begins with the introduction of the surf rake.

"This inter-agency, inter-sector collaboration is a significant development that we hope will go a long way in addressing an urgent concern regarding one of the Philippines' most beloved beaches," said Cecile Alcantara, President of the Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines. "The Coca-Cola System is proud to be part of this endeavor, which is testament to the possibilities realized by strong, genuine partnerships between stakeholders with a common goal."

The Surf Rake by H. Barber and Sons, manufactured in the USA, is the most popular tractor-towed beach-cleaner in the world—this is because it is the fastest and most efficient beach-cleaner in the market. Operated by an

individual from the seat of a towing tractor, the Surf Rake provides safe, fast, and efficient beach-cleaning.

Close coordination with the local government of Malay, Aklan will be undertaken to ensure the proper and efficient use of the Surf Rake, toward a genuine multi-stakeholder collaboration for the benefit of our environment. Coca-Cola will also work with the DOT and the local government of Malay to further establish a holistic and sustainable environmental preservation plan that will also enjoin both locals and tourists to take action, and do their part in the solid waste management efforts in the island.

"We recognize that there is a global waste problem, and like every



Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc CEO and President Gareth McGeown confer with Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año on the latest developments in the cleanup and rehabilitation of Boracay. The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force led by Cimatu had its meeting on the island in preparation for the influx of tourists during Holy Week.

one, we have a responsibility to help solve it," says McGeown. "As the bottler, our presence and deep foundation in the communities where we are present places us in a unique position to fully understand the waste management and recy-

cling situation at a local level. This then enables us to help advocate for new solutions that can help address the specific needs of the communities we serve—making the vision of a World Without Waste more accessible and possible for everyone."





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## Youth leaders tell poll bets to address environmental issues

WITH only a month away from election day, youth leaders on Saturday solicited the help of politicians, particularly those who are running for an elective post, in stopping environmental destruction.

According to youth leaders, if politicians want the support of the youth, they must also address the issue on coal energy, destructive mining, the single-use plastics among others.

"We will measure those who are running based on their stance against destructive mining, dirty energy, and other environmentally destructive practices," said Rara Ada of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice. "If they want the youth on their side, they must be on ours. And if they stand for the rapers of our environment, then they do not have our support."

The statement of Ada was issued during a summit dubbed as "The Endgame: National Ecological Justice Summit." — *Inquirer*



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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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# MANILA BULLETIN

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## Make it a greener Holy Week – Eco group

By **CHITO A. CHAVEZ**

An environmental group has urged the Christian faithful to observe a greener Holy Week citing the country generates over 40,000 tons of garbage per day – 9,872 tons of which are produced in Metro Manila.

EcoWaste Coalition said drastic measures are needed through acts that will prevent the generation of more garbage and pollution to resolve the country's garbage and pollution woes.

In observance of today's Palm Sunday, the group said concerted efforts are needed to educate the public on how to reduce the volume of toxicity like garbage during this celebration.

In the past, EcoWaste Coalition noted that massive garbage was "generated

across the country" during this commemoration.

"The Holy Week is a perfect time to reflect on our wastefulness that is consuming lots of finite resources and creating huge quantities of garbage that often end up in the streets, dumps and the oceans, or as feedstocks for cement kilns and incinerators," Ochie Tolentino, Zero Waste Campaigner of EcoWaste Coalition, said.

She maintained "the Holy Week provides an opportunity for all people to act, individually and collectively, to promote environmental awareness and responsibility, especially in the way we use resources and treat our surroundings."

"As care for creation is an integral part of the Christian mission, we urge the faithful to make the Holy Week a

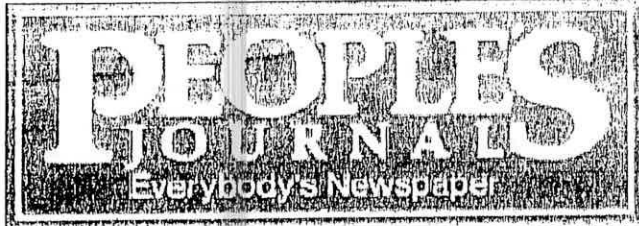
time to break from wasteful habits that are destroying our communities and the ecosystems year in and year out," she added.

Tolentino recalled the 2015 papal encyclical on the environment "Laudato Si" where Pope Francis decried that "each year hundreds of millions of tons of waste are generated, much of it non-biodegradable, highly toxic and radioactive, from homes and businesses, from construction and demolition sites, from clinical, electronic and industrial sources."

"As faith without works is dead, we ask all to perform acts of mercy and kindness toward Mother Earth that will prevent and reduce the generation of wastes and other pollutants, especially during the holy days and beyond," she noted.



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# Go green this Holy Week, Catholic faithful urged

**By Cory Martinez**

**THE environment-advocate group, EcoWaste Coalition, has appealed to the Christian faithful to observe a greener Holy Week by practicing proper waste disposal in order to prevent massive generation of garbage and pollution.**

Zero Waste campaigner Ochie Tolentino made the appeal as they noticed that every year during the observance of Holy Week, there is a massive generation of garbage across the country.

Tolentino said there is a need to step up concerted action to reduce the volume and toxicity of garbage.

"The Holy Week is a perfect time to reflect on our wastefulness that is consuming lots of finite resources and creating huge quantities of garbage that often end up in the streets, dumps and the

oceans, or as feedstock for cement kilns and incinerators," Tolentino said.

According to government estimates, the country generates over 40,000 tons of garbage per day of which 9,872 tons are produced in Metro Manila.

"The Holy Week provides an opportunity for all people to act, individually and collectively, to promote environmental awareness and responsibility, especially in the way we use resources and treat our surroundings," said Tolentino who is also a devout Catholic lay leader.

"As care for creation is an integral part of the Christian mission, we urge the faithful to make the Holy Week a time to break from wasteful habits that are destroying our communities and the ecosystems year in and year out," she said.

Tolentino recalled the 2015 papal encyclical on

the environment "Laudato Si" where Pope Francis decried that "each year hundreds of millions of tons of waste are generated, much of it non-biodegradable, highly toxic and radioactive, from homes and businesses, from construction and demolition sites, from clinical, electronic and industrial sources."

"As faith without work is dead, we ask all to perform acts of mercy and kindness toward Mother Earth that will prevent and reduce the generation of wastes and other pollutants, especially during the holy days and beyond," she suggested.

Toward an eco-friendly observance of the Holy Week, the EcoWaste group suggested to the faithful to abandon acts that defile and pollute the environment such as littering, dumping and burning of discards and keep all activities lead-safe: shun candles with lead-cored

wicks and paints with lead content.

The group also suggested that there is a need to cut emissions by taking public transport, biking or walking for the seven churches visitation, or Visita Iglesia, on Maundy Thursday and use recycled materials for the makeshift huts for the traditional Pabasa (Reading of the Passion of Christ).



## EARTH DAY RUN 2019 CAMPAIGNS AGAINST SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

Earth Day Run 2019 is set today, April 14, at Mall of Asia open grounds, as National Geographic continues its campaign to reduce the usage of single-use plastics.

The theme is "Planet or Plastic?" and everyone can get involved by visiting [www.natgeoearthdayrun.com](http://www.natgeoearthdayrun.com).

The 10th year of Earth Day Run in the Philippines is expected to attract 15,000 running enthusiasts.

Each year 9 million tons of plastic waste end up in the ocean, and Asia is responsible for more plastic waste leakage

than the rest of the world combined.

The goal of the campaign is to prevent 1 billion plastic items from reaching the ocean, which would benefit millions of marine animals that could become entangled in, suffocated by, or ingest plastic each year.



## The apocalypse has been postponed

By LEE ENOCHS

IN recent years, the controversial subject of global warming and a potential "climate disaster" has received a lot of media attention.

There are progressive politicians who are now arguing that unless profound changes in public policy are made to reduce worldwide carbon emissions, we face an impending worldwide climate-related catastrophe.

Former Presidential aspirant and Vice-President Al Gore was one of the first national personalities to raise the subject of global warming and the potentiality of an impending climate related catastrophe with the release of his Oscar-winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth* in 2006.

Needless to say, such dire prognostications have gained the attention of both the scientific and political communities. So important is the issue of global warming, in 2016, many different countries around the world agreed to sign the "Paris Agreement," an accord within the United States Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), pertaining to greenhouse gas-emissions and other climate related issues.

The Paris Agreement's long-range aspiration is to regulate the economy to keep the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels; and to limit the increase to 1.5 °C, since this, it is claimed, would substantially reduce the risks and effects of climate change.

However, the Paris Agreement has had its detractors, as evidenced by U.S. President Donald Trump who announced in June 2017, that he would withdraw the United States from the agreement.

In the nation of France itself, the Paris Agreement has been controversial and gave impetus to the "Yellow Vests movement," a populist grassroots protest movement that saw hundreds of thousands of citizens mobilize against French President Emmanuel Macron and his government for significantly raising taxes at the pump in an effort to reduce fossil fuel consumption out of concerns related to global warming.

Conversely, many political progressives in the United States have decried and protested President Trump's decision to

pull out of the Paris Agreement and have argued that the citizens of Earth are sitting on a virtual ticking time bomb and have issued dire warnings that we have just a decade to avert an unparalleled catastrophe of unfathomable proportions.

Some of these progressive politicians and purveyors of the "Green New Deal" have argued that unless the United States government spends trillions of dollars on combating the epic destruction almost certain to come in approximately a decade or a little more, it is almost certain that the world will come to an end due to climate-related foods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves without parallel in human history.

While I will not contest that we all need to care about the environment and avoid polluting the Earth, I find it interesting that those who say that there is an impending climate disaster keep pushing the date further into the future when such a worldwide cataclysm is supposed to take place.

Case in point: Al Gore distributed his documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* to the American public in 2006. In that film, Gore argued that the world come to an end in ten years due to global warming from the release of that film.

However, that was thirteen years ago, and we now find ourselves in the year 2019 and the global warming apocalypse has not yet taken place.

Similarly, progressive superstar Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) said recently that she thinks that there is an urgency needed in addressing man-made climate change, warning that it will "destroy the planet" in a dozen years if humans do not address the issue, no matter the cost.

The fever pitched alarmism over global warming seen in the contemporary progressive circles appears to be a form of "secular apocalypticism," that foretells that the eminent destruction of the earth is just right around the corner.

The main function appears to be to convince voters and taxpayers to acquiesce to ever-higher taxes to combat climate change.

As the Steve Miller Band song once said, "Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future."





# EARTH DAY JAM 2019: MEANINGFUL MUSICAL EVENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

**S**TILL going strong after almost two decades, this year's Earth Day Jam is set to unfold on April 26, as the annual environmental summer concert will adapt wildlife species protection as its main campaign theme.





## Earth Day Jam 2019: meaningful musical event for the environment

Earth Day Jam 2019 will take a "leap back" to its original Tomas Morato, Quezon City concert venue for this year's campaign. It is a special treat to fans who followed Earth Day Jam when it first started in 2000.

The "wildlife" theme essentially emphasizes on living species, their natural habitat, and efforts to protect them from the real threat of extinction. It also serves as a fitting prelude to Earth Day Jam's 20th anniversary in 2020.

"This year, the Earth Day Jam will be in-sync with the international theme of protecting the species. We chose to adapt such by focusing on the Philippines's wildlife. It is a shift from Earth Day Jam's 'Save Mother Earth' campaign that has been adopted in previous summer events," clarified Earth Day Jam Foundation Founder and Chairman **Lou Bonnevie**.

**Earth Day Jam 2019**, the annual summer outdoor concert for Mother Earth, is expected to

play a significant role in informing, educating and campaigning toward wildlife species protection and preservation.

According to organizers, Earth Day Jam's following has grown to more than 200,000 in the last three years, with them trailing Earth Day campaigns leading to the April 26th concert day.

"Apart from tackling the international theme of protecting the species, we will also be tackling other crucial environmental issues on water, clean air and energy, solid waste management and other best environmental practices. We have invited resource speakers from the **Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, Earth Day Network Phils., Foundation For The Philippine Environment, Forest Foundation of the Phils.** and **Winner Foundation**. We also have young poets who will deliver inspired pieces on this year's Earth Day theme," added Bonnevie.

She went on to say, "Overall, the message we want share with

our very young audience is diverse, yet presented in a very interesting manner through activities such as games and Q-and-A segments, so we can relate to everyone."

Furthermore, the general public has a chance to get VIP passes by availing of the event T-shirt by registering at the web site of Earth Day Jam Foundation. It will also be on sale at the Earth Day Jam booths during the performance. Free water will be given to those who will purchase tumblers and other merchandising products by the foundation.

### Star-studded gig

CONCERT attendees will have a field day enjoying best live performances from some of biggest A-list Philippine music artists.

Joining this year's roster of live performing bands and singers include **ABRA, Autotelic, Chicosci, Gracenote, Itchy Worms, Kjwan, Mayonnaise, Moonstar88, Noel Cabangon, Njoy Volante, PI Jazzfest, Rouge, Sandwich, Tanya Markova, The Joyrides** and Bonn-

evie herself.

Apart from regular speaker intervals, Earth Day Jam 2019 will feature surprise celebrity guests on concert day.

### Interactive education

EARTH Day Jam 2019 will be a full-day event, according to organizers. For early birds, it will feature display booths from participating organizations, where concertgoers can check out and sign-in to various environmental activities and campaigns that are sure to suit everyone's passion.

Earth Day Jam's Recyclable Trading Fair will also be open to the public to collect empty pet bottles. Every kilo will be traded for a free water jug. The Environmental Protection Management Bureau of the Quezon City local government unit will spearhead the activity.

Bonnevie pitched for everyone to come over to the meaningful musical event for the environment: "We will have an afternoon interactive art session spearheaded by the

Kartunistas ng Pilipinas. We have so many activities for visitors. And everyone can learn so much more about the state of our environment. It will be a great experience for kids before they join the evening's nonstop live concert which will feature some of the best OPM bands and sing-

ers who will play their hearts out for Mother Earth."

### Partners for the 'Jam'

EARTH Day Jam 2019 would not be

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### Earth Day...

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possible without the Earth Day Jam Foundation's long-term partners led by the Quezon City government through the Office of Vice Mayor Josefina "Joy" Belmonte, Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, First Gen Corporation, Maynilad, PRRC, Tagbalay Foundation, Lifebank Foundation, Philippine Information Agency, Metro

Manila Development Authority, Dept. of Public Works and Highways, Barangay South Triangle, Hive Hotel, Hop Inn, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., MiniStop, ChopChop Chicken, David's Salon, 83k, BUSINESSMIRROR, MYX and ABS-CBN.

For more info, check out the Facebook event page of Earth Day Jam Foundation or visit [www.earthdayjamfoundation.com](http://www.earthdayjamfoundation.com).



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# CEZA starts works on P500 M corporate, commercial centers

By LOUELLA DESIDERIO

Construction works for the P500 million Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA) Corporate Center and Commercial Center are set to begin simultaneously this month to host financial technology firms and other business locators.

CEZA Administrator Raul Lambino said the two buildings would be ready for occupancy by early next year to fill the demand for offices of the Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Freeport's first 26 fintech principal licensees.

He said local commercial banks and other business locators in the tourism and

manufacturing sectors are also setting up offices in the Corporate Center and Commercial Center.

CEZA deputy administrator Raymundo Roquero said the agency is spending P200 million for the corporate center, while P300 million has been allocated for the commercial center.

Apart from the two structures, the planned improvement and rehabilitation of Port Irene is also underway, with the construction of six new warehouses to cater to rising demand for space by port users importing construction materials, supplies and cargo.

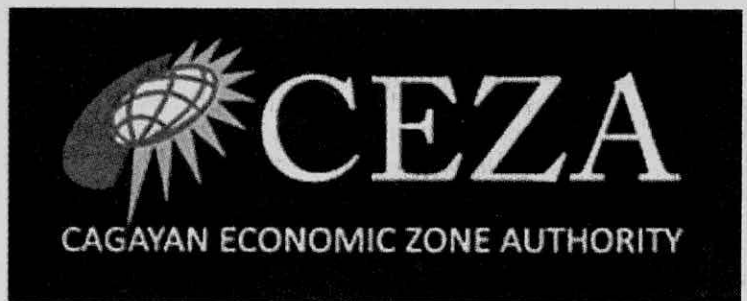
In the long term, CEZA

plans to implement other projects in the 54,000-hectare special economic zone and freeport.

These include construction

a cyberpark, and the CEZA Programmatic Environmental Impact and Assessment Project.

Lambino has commis-



of the proposed Convention Center and Sports Complex, the Coastal Boulevard, the Fintech Hub and Duty Free Mall, power and water plants,

sioned a local company for the master development plan for the special economic zone and freeport, as well as for the feasibility studies which

would include looking at the financial viability of the different projects.

CEZA is likewise looking at developing the Nangaramoan Eco-Tourism Park and the Palau Island Eco-Tourism Park.

In line with the plan, Lambino said the CEZA is seeking permission from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the local government unit and various people's organizations.

"We have to protect and preserve these natural tourism havens from commercial abuse," Lambino said.

He said the proposed Nan-

garamoan Eco-Tourism Park, to be situated in between the Pozo Robio and Aguib beaches, is expected to cater to local tourists and foreign backpackers.

To be managed by the CEZA with DENR and the local government unit and the local community, the eco-tourism park would feature various facilities including an infinity pool, a canopy walk, stilt cabanas and an extended zip line.

The other eco-tourism park will be located in Palau Island, which boasts of tourism destinations, including the Spanish-era Cape Engano Lighthouse.