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IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



STRATEGIC
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DENR to resolve Lopez MPSA cancellations

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is set to clear a majority of the 75 mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs) that were cancelled by former secretary Gina Lopez as the government slowly opens up again to the mining industry.

Environment Undersecretary for Mining Analiza Teh said the government would soon clear most of the 75 mining contracts issued show-cause orders two years ago during the tenure of Lopez.

"A majority of that will be cleared. Because the guideline there is that they have been issued with area clearance before their MPSAs were processed," Teh told **The STAR** in an interview.

"In the first place, they will not be given their MPSA if they are really within pro-

claimed watersheds because their areas need to be plotted carefully," she said.

In 2017, Lopez revoked 37 MPSAs in Mindanao, 27 in Luzon and 11 in the Visayas

which are either under exploratory stages or for possible developments.

An MPSA is an agreement wherein the government shares in the production of the contractor, whether in kind or in value, as the owner of the minerals, and the contractor gets the rest. In return, the contractor provides the necessary financing, technology, management and personnel for the mining project.

"Until now, the review is ongoing in our regional offices. The reason they were issued show cause orders because according to Lopez, they exist within the watersheds," Teh said.

"But the law actually requires that they should be within 'proclaimed' watersheds. Now, I already ordered our regions to submit their report soon," she said.

Teh said the DENR is also ready to face possible cases against the department once they release the clearance for the MPSAs.

"Yes, the DENR can be sued for damages because the move may have affected their reputation, their stocks in the market, things like that," she said.

Among the big MPSAs that have been affected include the subsidiary of Pangilinan-led Philex Mining Corp, Silangan Mindanao Mining Co. Inc., and its other MPSAs in Surigao, Zamboanga, and Negros, as well as TVI Resources Development Phils. and Kingking Mining Corp. of Benguet Corp.

- Louise Maureen Simeon



High hopes for Manila Bay: Sturdy corals survive

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](https://twitter.com/jonlmayuga)

A RAY of hope shines upon the polluted Manila Bay with the discovery of sturdy coral species, remnants of what was once considered the vast tropical rainforest of the sea.

The corals managed to survive the odds, despite the poor living conditions caused by decades of environmental degradation that continue to kill marine life and other organisms in the pollution-challenged water body.

This development was documented by a team of from the Ecosystems Research Development Bureau (ERDB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) that was sent out to conduct a vulnerability assessment of coral reefs in Manila Bay last month.

The discovery adds more reasons for the conduct of a more comprehensive environmental impact assessment relevant to the various Manila Bay development projects to ensure that a science-based policy on how to best rehabilitate—and manage—the still undiscovered biodiversity sitting beneath the waters of Manila Bay is put in place.

Conservation

INITIAL findings of a team of the ERDB-DENR revealed that even under the worst conditions when and where others perish, several sturdy coral species manage to survive by adapting to even the poorest living conditions.

The research arm of the DENR, the ERDB is currently gathering data to assess the vulnerability of the bay to climate-change impacts.

The project is being implemented by a team of science practitioners of various disciplines seeking significant, research-driven information on the factors influencing the present state of the bay and its vulnerability to different hazards.

The project components include terrestrial, coastal, freshwater, air and water quality, social and solid-waste management.

Ridge-to-reef study

IN a news statement released in the first week of April to highlight the vulnerability assessment being conducted by the ERDB, Director Sofio B. Quintana said the coverage of the research encompasses terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

“In this ridge-to-reef research on the Manila Bay Area, we are seeking for a definite connection among risk factors. Right now, we are trying to explore more data on informal-settler families, air and water quality, and habitat to make scientific studies relevant for future projects.”

According to Quintana, the bureau is trying to come up with a unified framework for these projects. Consolidated properly, these could make an inference on the status of the Manila Bay area.

Major threats

ACCORDING to the DENR, a total of 17 major river systems in nearby cities and provinces drain to Manila Bay.



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High Hopes For Manila Bay: Sturdy corals survive

Incidentally, most of the wastes from households and industries from these estuaries pose the most apparent threat to the bay.

The DENR data showed that only 15 percent, or an estimate of 2.4 million out of 16.3 million, of the water-served population of the National Capital Region, are connected to a sewerage system.

Also, the poor solid-waste management remains a bigger challenge as aftermaths of strong typhoons would later reveal the tons of uncollected garbage washed back along the shores of Manila Bay every now and then.

The Manila Bay area is also vulnerable to the dangers of noise pollution, the presence of invasive species brought by international cargo ships and illegal fishing activities.

Coral inventory

AS part of the coastal component, a team led by ERDB's Supervising Science Research Specialist Jose Isidro Michael T. Padin conducted an inventory of coral communities in the provinces of Bataan and Cavite.

Of the Manila Bay's total reef area of 293.68 hectares, nearly 72 percent are found in Cavite.

Padin reported that the reef sites in Maragondon, Cavite, and few stations on Corregidor in Bataan and Caballo Islands in Manila Bay had fair to good live coral cover.

However, he said the reefs are continually threatened by sedimentation, nutrient contamination, reduced water clarity and high fishing pressure.

According to Padin, runoff of sediments and nutrients had been documented to cause coral mortality by smothering and burial, low coral recruitment, reduced coral diversity, change in community structure, macroalgal abundance, reduced calcification and reduced live coral cover in many reef ecosystems around the world.

Adapting to worse conditions

IN a telephone interview with the BUSINESSMIRROR on April 8, Padin expressed amazement on how corals managed to survive under such poor living conditions.

In terms of diversity, Padin said the corals they found are not as diverse as in other areas, because those that remain are the sturdy corals.

"The community of corals has changed. There is a shift in the type of corals there [Manila Bay]. The form and the morphology are different from the corals that can be found in Batangas or other areas," he said.

He said it could be concluded that the corals found in the Manila Bay area, particularly in the study sites they visited, are adapting to survive their current environment.

"When we conducted the dive, there was poor visibility. I can't even see my own body. The water quality is no longer good," he said in mixed English and Filipino.

He explained that it was caused by the altered water circulation because of sedimentation and siltation that occur in estuaries and in some portion of the bay.

Lifeline: Good water circulation

DESPITE the high level of pollution that threatens living organisms in Manila Bay, relatively good water circulation keeps hope alive.

"The remaining reefs in the bay are located proximate or near to the mouth of Manila Bay, where water circulation is relatively strong. Strong water current can reduce stress on corals by limiting sediment deposition at the bottom and on coral colonies," he explained

Good water circulation facilitates transport of fresh supply of plankton and improves water clarity by flushing land-based materials out of the bay, he added.

Moreover, he explained that corals filter organisms in the water as they feed on plankton.

"Corals also need light to support the photosynthetic activity of symbiotic algae living in their tissues," he said.

According to Padin, land-reclamation projects should be backed by an environmental impact study (EIS) as mandated by law, to ensure that the impact to the coastal and marine ecosystem or the area targeted by the project, would be minimal.

The EIS, he said, would help determine what kind of intervention is best for an area to be rehabilitated.

"Whether the intervention requires soft engineering or hard engineering, it should be determined by a study and conduct of EIS," he said.

Moreover, he said dredging to remove silts and allow the free flow of water from rivers would positively impact and help revive Manila Bay.

More importantly, however, a ridge-to-reef approach to rehabilitation, where everything starts from the upland areas—the

watershed areas down to rivers down and the reefs—should be observed.

New discovery, a new hope

ACCORDING to Padin, surprisingly, corals have been discovered in areas where there is no previous record of corals, referring to two seagrass sites where corals were sighted by the team.

Based on the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria) coastal resource map, in Cavite, Corregidor and Caballo, the reef area spans to 293.68 hectares.

The reef in Mariveles, Bataan, is not yet included, since the Namria map has no record of corals there, he said.

However, Padin said that when the team checked two of the purported seagrass sites using scuba gears, some corals were surprisingly spotted.

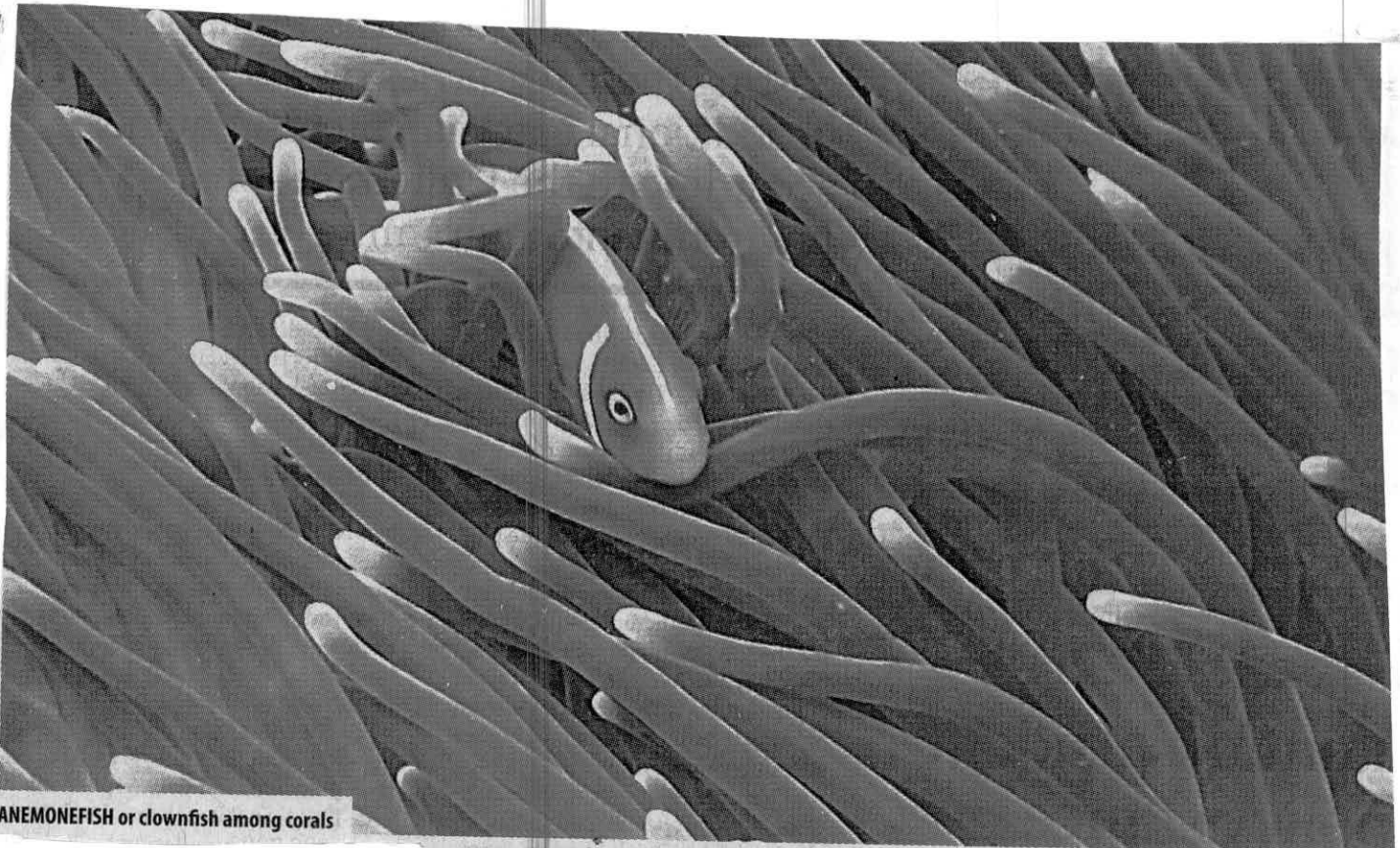
In the end, both Padin and Quintana said there is always hope in saving Manila Bay.

"What we only see from above is the surface of another living world underneath us. People should understand that Manila Bay is home to other life forms. Despite its rapid deterioration, there remains hope in Manila Bay. It is not yet too late to revive the life out of its troubled waters," Quintana said.



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ANEMONEFISH or clownfish among corals



CORALS were found by research teams from the Ecosystems Research Development Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources during the conduct of vulnerability assessment in Cavite. DR. JOSE ISIDRO MICHAEL PADIN



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DENR SA ILALIM NI DUTERTE, UMAAKSYON

MGA ka-idol, ang Pilipinas ay kabilang sa mga bansa sa Asya na biniyayaan ng maipagmamalaking sagana at likas na yamang lupa, yamang gubat, yamang mineral at yamang tao.

Subalit dahil nga kapabayaan ng tao at ng paglaganap ng globalisasyon sa Pilipinas, lumalala ang pagkasira at pagkaubos ng likas na yaman ng bansa.

Ito ay nagdudulot ng masamang epekto, lalo na sa kalikasan lalo dahil sa malawakan ang operasyon ng mga mapagmalabis na korporasyon transnasyunal.

Sanhi nito ay pagkalason ng yamang tubig, pagkakalbo ng kagubatan, pagkasira ng coral sa karagatan, pagkasaid ng sustansiya ng lupa, pagdumi ng hangin, pagkaubos ng buhay-ilang at iba pa.

Patuloy rin ang ilegal ng pagluwas ng Pilipinas ng mga yamang mineral, yamang da-

gat at buhay-ilang tulad ng tropikal na isda at coral patungo sa iba't ibang panig ng daigdig.

Bunga ito ng mataas na demand na pamilihan na nangangahulugan na malaking kita mula sa mga ganitong uri ng negosyo.

Ito ay dahil na rin sa papel na ginagampanan ng Pilipinas at maging ng iba pang mga bansa sa Asya sa proseso ng globalisasyon at nagsisilbi silang pinanggagalingan ng mga hilaw na materyales.

Dati ay sinisisi ang base militar ng Amerika na nakatayo sa Pilipinas bunga ng dala nitong mga nakakalasang kemikal.

Bagaman at noong 1991 pa lumisan ang puwersa ng mga Amerikano sa Subic Naval Base sa Olongapo at Clark Air Field sa Pampanga, hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay nararamdaman pa rin ng mga

mamamayang nakatira mapalapit sa base-militar at mga karatig-pook ang masamang dulot ng lasong kemikal.

Nagresulta ito ng mga pagkakasakit ng isang residente sa paligid ng mga base-militar tulad ng komplikasyon sa atay, puso, balat, baga, utak, at iba pa.

Nag-iwan din ito ng masamang epekto sa kalidad ng pinagkukunang-tubig ng mga mamamayan lalo na sa mga katutubong naninirahan sa mga kabundukang nakapaikot dito.

Kaya nga sa pangkalahatan, malaki ang papel na dapat gampanan ng pamahalaan, pribadong sektor, at ng mga mamamayan upang bigyang-lunas ang mga problemang pangkalikasan sa bansa.

Mabuti na lamang at sa panahon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ay kabilang sa prayoridad ng kanyang administrasyon ang pagmamantine ng kalinisan sa kalikasan.

Walang tigil sa pagak-syon ang tanggapan ng Department of Environment and

Natural Resources (DENR), una ay sa paglilinis sa mga baybay-dagat kasunod ang mga ilog at iba pang nasirang

kalikasan upang ang mamamayan sa Pilipinas ay mabuhay nang masagana at may malinis na kapaligiran.



Mining-free Marinduque measure gains in House

By **CHARISSA M. LUCI-ATIENZA**

The House of Representatives has approved on second reading a bill seeking to declare the province of Marinduque as a mining-free zone.

House Bill (HB) 9019, principally authored by Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Jay Velasco, bans all forms of mining, whether large-scale or small-scale, within the province.

"As citizens of the Philippines, we have the intergenerational responsibility to preserve and protect the environment that is capable of sustaining life. The right carries with it the correlative duty to refrain from impairing

the environment," Velasco said.

He rued that the Marcopper mining disaster 1996 left irreparable damage to the people and province of Marinduque.

"The effects of the incident were so devastating that a United Nations (UN) assessment mission declared it to be a major environmental disaster," the chairman of the House Committee on Energy said.

Co-authors of the bill include Velasco's sister, MATA party-list Rep. Tricia Nicole Velasco-Catera and Cebu City Rep. Rodrigo Abellanos.

HB 9019 covers all mining activities, including quarrying.

Under the measure, all valid existing contracts, exploration permits, licenses, technical agreements and mineral production sharing agreements in accordance with the Mining

Act of 1995 will remain valid until their expiration or termination.

Thereafter, no further extension or renewal will be granted.

Upon the effectivity of the proposed act, no exploration permits or application for extension will be granted even during the lifetime of existing mining contracts, technical and financial assistance agreements and mineral production sharing agreements.

In case of failure to undertake any exploration activity or mining operation within two years from the effectivity of the act, the exploration permit or mineral agreement will be declared dormant by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Dormant permits or agreement shall ipso facto be cancelled upon declaration of dormancy.



Gentle giants

The Philippines is blessed with abundant marine biodiversity that includes various species of fishes and mollusk. The largest living bivalve mollusk in the world,

or *Tridacna gigas* – also known as *taklobo* – can be found in our waters.

Giant clams have in fact put the Philippines in the record books as two of the world's biggest pearls, the "Pearl of Allah," weighing 6.395 kilograms and the "Palawan Princess" (2.27 kg.) are both produced by giant clams in our waters.

Philippine laws and regulations prohibit the collecting, theft, eating, sale and export of giant clams but illegal harvesting of these magnificent sea creatures continues.

On Saturday, authorities in Sagay City, Negros Occidental arrested three persons for possession and selling of giant clam shells. Recovered from the suspect were 177 shells weighing at least 1.5 tons, valued around P6 million.

According to the examination of the Protected Area Management Board of Sagay City, some of the giant clams have existed for over 50 years.

The giant clam has been historically misunderstood to be a "killer clam" and was feared to be able to clamp down on an unsuspecting diver. But scientific studies proved it is neither aggressive nor dangerous. It's the people illegally harvesting them who are nasty and destructive.



Bat cave for real Bats perched in Imelda Cave on Marcos Island is one of the many wonders of the Hundred Islands in Pangasinan.



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CALLAO CAVE SA CAGAYAN DINARAGSA NG SCIENTIST

CAGAYAN – DAHIL sa natuklasan sa loob ng Callao Cave sa Peñablanca dumarami ang nagkakainteres na mga scientist, kaya muli umanong magsasagawa ng paghuhukay ang mga archeologists na nakadiskubre sa mga buto at ngipin ng mga sinaunang uri ng mga tao na tinawag na *Homo luzonensis* na nabuhay umano ng 67,000 ang nakalipas

Sinabi ni Atty. Ma. Rosario Mamba Villafior, Head ng Provincial Tourism Office magsasagawa ng pag-aaral ang pamunuan ng nasabing

ahensya upang maitala sa kasaysayan, na mula sa lalawigan ito ay nabuhay ang sinaunang tao sa bansang Filipinas.

Ayon pa kay Villafior, isinasaayos na ng kanilang tanggapan sa provincial museum katuwang ang Department of Environment ang Natural Resources (DENR) na muling buhayin na noo'y napabalitang dead cave upang mas lalo pang mahikayat ang mga turistang magtutungo sa Callao Cave

Kasabay nito na magiging strikto ang tanggapan ng provincial Museum sa pagpapatupad

ng rules and regulation sa nasabing kuweba para sa lalong ikagaganda at mapanatili ang kalinisan sa loob at labas ng Callao Cave at maglalagay na sila ng kanilang tanggapan para sa kabuuang ditlaye ng kasaysayan ng lalawigan ng Cagayan.

Samantala, umaasa si Villafior na maipasa na ang 2019 provincial budget para magawa ang mga nakapilang proyekto para sa ikagaganda sa nasabing lugar.

Sinabi ni Jennifer Baquiran, museum curator ng Cagayan na unang sinabi sa kanila ni Proessor Armand Mi-

jares na nanguna sa paghuhukay na nais nilang mabuo ang kanilang mga diskubre.

Kaugnay nito, sinabi ni Baquiran na bibisita si Mijares sa lalawigan sa susunod na buwan kasabay ng Heritage Month Celebration.

Sinabi ni Baquiran na magandang pagkakataon nito upang mas maipakilala at maipaliwanag ni Mijares ang kanilang ginawang paghuhukay at reaserch sa mga nasabing fossils.

IRENE GONZALES



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Siargao Island protection sought

He said the island is now facing issues on solid waste management, drainage system, and lack of hospital facilities, the same problems that confronted Boracay Island before

By Hananeel Bordey

Surigao del Norte 1st District Rep. Robert Ace Barbers on Sunday asked for an inter-agency cooperation to help protect the famed Siargao Island from environmental degradation and prevent it from becoming the next Boracay.

"There has to be a collaboration between the national government especially the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the local government units (LGU) because sometimes, the latter are not aware of the violations that may cost the island," he said.

He added the island is now facing issues on solid waste management, drainage system and lack of hospital facilities, the same problems that confronted Boracay Island before.

"Most of the complaints that we receive are about the small clinics and hospital that were not equipped (with appropriate equipment) that can be used during emergency situation," he said.

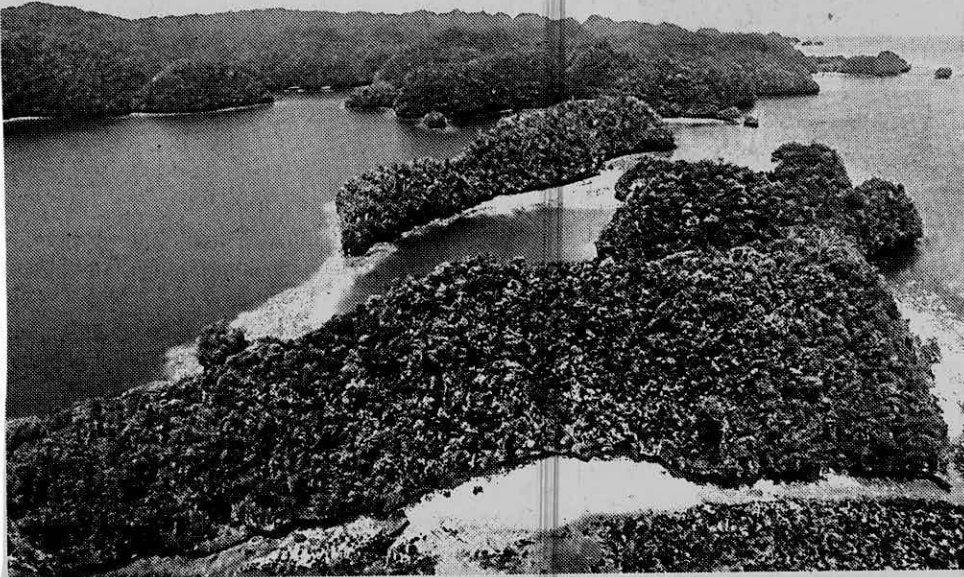
Last week, those concerns were raised

again as American swimmer and Olympic gold medalist Conor Dwyer sustained a head injury that needed eight stitches while he was surfing in Siargao.

Dwyer, who was with Filipino-American Victoria Secret model Kelsey Merritt, was rushed to a small clinic because the municipality of General Luna only has a rural health unit and one private clinic.

"There are efforts that the LGU has to take here and they should be the one reporting this to the national government. The needs and the facilities that are lacking," Barbers said.

He also brought up the lack of drainage system which could result in environmental damage in the area.



Saving Siargao Local officials want to rescue the beautiful island from environmental degradation.



MISSION:PHL ENVOYS&EXPATS AWARDS

UNDP bags Development Aid Partner Award for Biodiversity

THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) bagged the “Development Aid Partner Award for Biodiversity” at the Mission:PHL Envoys&Expats Awards on April 4 at the SM Aura Premier in Taguig City.

UNDP Deputy Resident Rep. Enrico Gaveglia received the award in a ceremony attended by members of the diplomatic community, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies, government officials and the media.

Gaveglia dedicated the award to the local communities UNDP is working with, and encouraged the attendees to “commit to a common purpose of pursuing sustainable progress not at the expense of future generations.”

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. also conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to the diplomatic corps and multilateral and bilateral aid agencies in the Philippines.

He added that “development cooperation is a shared responsibility and vision with the desire to uplift the lives of people in the most effective and efficient way.”

Most of the biodiversity focused projects implemented by the UNDP is done with DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau with support from the Global Environment Facility.

One of UNDP’s commendable



The BusinessMirror
Envoys&Expats Awards

projects is the Philippine ICCA Project, which aims to strengthen the conservation, protection, and management of biodiversity sites in the Philippines by institutionalizing ICCAs, or the Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas, as a sustainable addition to the national protected areas estate.

Since its launch in 2016, the project has mapped more than 150,000 hectares of forest and marine ecosystems with high biodiversity values in its 10-partner indigenous people (IP) communities, inventoried the flora and fauna contained therein, documented the traditional resource management practices of the IPs, and supported biodiversity friendly



CONRAD BRAVANTE (from left) of DENR-Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service, UNDP Deputy Resident Rep. Enrico Gaveglia, Grace Tena of UNDP-Inclusive and Sustainable Development Unit, and Garie Rigor and Sam Pedragosa of the Philippine ICCA Project pose for a photo after UNDP receives the BUSINESSMIRROR’s Mission:PHL “Development Aid Partner Award for Biodiversity.”

livelihoods that benefitted 50,000 individuals, 46 percent of whom are women.

It has also successfully lobbied for the inclusion of IP-responsive provisions in the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-Nipas) Act of 2018 and trained different government personnel on ICCA Documentation and Cultural Appreciation.

Organized by the BUSINESSMIRROR, Mission:PHL cele-

brates the role of nations and development aid partners in helping the Philippine government improve the lives and future of the Filipino people.

It is the first and only recognition awards of its kind in the country today. Apart from the Biodiversity Award, the BUSINESSMIRROR also bestowed recognitions to projects in different sectors from agriculture, trade, technology, education and tourism.



Protecting biodiversity toward a healthy Asean community

FOOD, water and shelter. These compose the traditional list of basic needs that humans need to survive. However, with emerging concerns that affect daily life, the list has become longer. One basic need that has been added is health care.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that millions from the world's population still have no access to health care, and that these people are faced with the difficult decision on whether they should prioritize health care over other basic needs.

This is the main reason the WHO chose "Universal Health Coverage" as the theme for this year's World Health Day on April 7. Universal Health Coverage, as stated by the WHO, means that all people have access to the quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship.

However, the solution to this long-standing concern has always been available to everyone in all parts of the world.

Biodiversity, comprising of all living things and their habitats, has a significant impact on health. The Asean region alone, which hosts almost 20 percent of all known plant and animal species, is teeming with sources of raw materials for medicine.

Apart from this, biodiversity also protects communities from natural disasters, such as how mangroves, sea grass beds and healthy coral reefs provide natural defence against storm surges.

Also, forest ecosystems and their biodiversity contribute to human health and safety by regulating climate and disease proliferation, purifying air and water, and preventing soil erosion.

This is why the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), with support

from its development partners, has taken up efforts to demonstrate the importance of biodiversity to the health of the citizens of the Asean region.

In November 2018, the ACB, in cooperation with the WHO, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat, and the United Nations University's Institute for International Global Health, hosted the Regional Workshop to Address Inter-linkages between Human Health and Biodiversity in the Asean region.

Held in Manila, the event gathered experts from the Ministries of Environment and Health in the Asean member-states to discuss national experiences and best practices on integrating biodiversity and human health.

"What we do to our environment has definite consequences to human health," said Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim, executive director of the ACB. "Human health ultimately depends on ecosystems services that are made possible by biodiversity and its products," she added.

Health Secretary Dr. Francisco T. Duque III, in his keynote address during the workshop, cited three areas where biodiversity affects human health: food security, pharmaceutical development and traditional medicine, and the emergence and spread of infectious diseases in animals, plants and humans.

With the ACB's efforts to mainstream biodiversity both in the regional and global scale, it will not be long before everyone understands and appreciates the importance of biodiversity in human health. Strengthening collaboration between the health and biodiversity sectors is an important step in making sure that biodiversity is protected toward a healthy Asean community.



Trusted Since 1938

The Manila Times

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Kiwanis Club of Makati President speaks about 'Reforest 2019'



THE Engineering Week of National University was held at the multipurpose hall of its annex building in Sampaloc, Manila. Dean Alexa Ray Fernando led the one week event with the launch of "Reforest: 1st Research Forum and Exhibition on Environmental Sustainability and Technologies" with the theme "Sustaining the Environment through Engineering Solutions."

Speakers came from different sectors and shared their expertise with topics that includes the following: Direction and Programs of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) - Nicanor Mendoza (Government); Climate Smart and Disaster Resilient Philippines - Glenn Banaguas (Private Sector); Contribution of Engineering Education and Research to Environmental Sustainability- Alvin Culaba (Academe), Simonette Lat (Corporate).

Representing the nongovernment organization is Engr.

Grace Bondad Nicolas, president of Kiwanis Club of Makati who shared the initiatives and projects of her different organizations where she involved in and that includes all environmental activities of Kiwanis Club of Makati.

According to Engr. Grace Bondad Nicolas: "We need to be aware to be concerned and education is the key. We partnered with Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission and even with Commission On Elections (Comelec) in doing these kinds of environmental activities. We believe that they have the platform and means but we have the heart and advocacy to share the information to reach more people to understand more what's need to be done for our environment. Why Comelec? We need to choose the best leaders of this country who will have a mandate to take care of the environment for the next generation."



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Rody slams MWSS for poor El Niño planning

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte on Saturday night slammed the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for its insufficient preparations for the El Niño or dry spell this year.

Duterte, during the PDP-Laban campaign rally in Malaybalay in Bukidnon, said the MWSS and other concerned agencies should have rolled out contingency measures to ensure a steady supply of water during the dry spell, which he said was a "seasonal" occurrence.

He noted that even before the El Niño phenomenon set in, water supply was already a cause of concern in Metro Manila.

"Anang MWSS, anak ka ng p***. Kada seasonal, naa gyud nang El Niño, nganong wa man na ninyo preparahe? Nga pagkahu-

man, wa pa gani maabot nang El Niño, wa na'y tubig. P***** i**. Hain na man diay ang tubig aning kalibutana ni? (MWSS, that son of a b****. El Niño is seasonal but why didn't they prepare for it? And after this, even when there is no El Niño, there is no water. Son of a b***. Where is the water of this world?)," he said in his speech.

He said MWSS and private firms should have anticipated the water supply shortage and planned emergency measures to cushion its public impact.

Duterte had given MWSS and water concessionaires until April 10 to submit a report about the country's water supply situation to help him determine who should be held responsible for the supply problem, and if there was negligence or incompetence issues with regards water agency officials.

He had promised to review the report

and come up with a decision today (April 15) on whether or not he would fire MWSS officials and scrap the contract of water concessionaires.

Some parts of Metro Manila and Rizal, which is served by Manila Water Inc., last month suffered from tight water supply problems, which the private water concessionaire attributed to the low water level of the Ipo dam.

Water from the Angat dam was subsequently released to augment the supply in affected areas after President Duterte threatened to visit the MWSS and order the release of water from the dam.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has recently advised the public that Angat Dam water was approaching critical level and urged residents in Metro Manila to conserve water.



Duterte to decide on fate of MWSS execs

By **ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS**

President Duterte is expected to decide on the fate of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) executives for their lack of preparation

for the annual dry season and this year's El Niño phenomenon.

The President had given a self-imposed deadline that ends today, April 15, for him to decide whether or not to fire MWSS officials for the. ►4

water crisis in several parts of Metro Manila and whether to renew or not the contracts of water concessionaires.

In a speech during the PDP-Laban proclamation rally in Malaybalay, Bukidnon Saturday evening, Duterte called out the MWSS for being ill-prepared for the seasonal dry spell.

"Kanang MWSS, anak kang p***. Kada seasonal, naagyud nang El Niño, nganong wa man na ninyo preparahe (MWSS, son of a b**h. El Niño is seasonal but why didn't you prepare for it)?" he said.

Duterte also said that the agency would not have scurried to restore the water supply if he did not threaten them

that he would visit the agency.

"Og wa nako ingna nga muanha ko kugma, pagkabuntag, agas na (If didn't say that I will go there... see, the following morning there's water flowing out already)," he said.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) recently advised the public that the water in Angat Dam was approaching critical level and urged residents in Metro Manila to conserve water.

Last month, President Duterte said he would wait for the report of the MWSS on April 10 before he announces his decision five days later.

"I will not make a prejudgment. I asked them, everybody concerned, to submit a report by April 10 and I will decide before April 15," he said Thursday evening.

According to Duterte, he wants to find out if the water crisis is a product of negligence, or something that is really out of the MWSS' hands.

"Ano'ng nangyari? (What happened?) Who was responsible for it? Was there negligence or was there really something which was beyond the competence of the MWSS," he said.

Duterte earlier threatened to axe MWSS officials and scrap the contract of water concessionaires over the water crisis.

According to Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo, a visibly outraged Duterte did not even bother to listen to the explanation of the water officials as they could have implemented measures to address such crisis.

"The Chief Executive told them he was not going to listen to their explanation as to why there was a water shortage as such would be just plain excuses. They simply did not do their job," Panelo said in a statement.

"All they care about is get profit from the water of the people and to their sufferance as well. The President told them they could have simply anticipated such shortage and could have done something about it," he added. (Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)



Barangays, NGOs told to tap P1-B 'survival fund' for rainwater collection facilities

WITH 61 percent of the country, including Metro Manila, reeling from the ill effects of El Niño, a lawmaker on Sunday urged barangays and nongovernment organizations (NGOs) to tap the P1-billion "survival fund" to hoard rainwater.

Under Republic Act 10174, which reinforced the Climate Change Act of 2009, Makati City Rep. Luis N. Campos Jr. said barangays and NGO may avail themselves the People's Survival Fund (PSF) so they can put up functional rainwater collectors in their communities.

According to Campos, the PSF never runs out of money because it is guaranteed a replenishable balance of at least P1 billion every year under the law.

"The PSF is a special annual fund in the National Treasury that provides subsidy to climate change adaptation and natural disaster resilience strategies, including the installation of practical rainwater harvesters," Campos, a deputy minority leader, said.

He said the fund was established by law to supplement the yearly money set aside by national agencies, as well as local govern-

ments for programs and projects meant to build up the capability of communities to cope with harsh weather conditions.

"We all have to get used to stockpiling rainwater during the wet season so that everybody can have access to extra freshwater supplies during dry conditions," Campos said.

The fund is administered by the PSF Board, composed of the heads of the Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, Department of the Interior and Local Government, National Economic and Development Authority and the Philippine Commission on Women, along with the vice chairman of the Climate Change Commission, and one representative each from the scientific community, the business sector and nongovernment organizations.

Drought

CITING the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), Campos said El Niño conditions are likely to worsen this April, with 61 percent of the country enduring drought and the other 39 percent

undergoing a dry spell.

He added that the national weather and climate authority also warned that "most dams and lakes that supply drinking, as well as irrigation water will likely experience way below normal rainfall conditions this April."

Pagasa defines drought as three consecutive months of greater than 60 percent reduction from average rainfall, or five consecutive months of 21 to 60 percent reduction from average rainfall.

A dry spell means three consecutive months of 21 to 60 percent reduction from average rainfall, or two consecutive months of greater than 60 percent reduction from average rainfall.

'Urgent' bill

BAGONG Henerasyon Party-list Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dyon Sunday reiterated her call to the Senate to approve on final reading Senate Bill (SB) 1754 which gives a long-awaited legal definition of a public utility to address ongoing water shortages, as well as brownouts, and telecoms service interruptions.

"The House did its part way back September 2017 when it sent House

Bill (HB) 5828 to the Senate. The Senate's committee report containing SB 1754 has not yet advanced to second reading and third reading since March 2018," she said.

"It is our hope that with the ongoing water shortages, brownouts, and telecoms service interruptions, SB 1754 will gain urgency and momentum, so that when Congress resumes session after the May 13 elections, SB 1754 will be ready for House concurrence," the House assistant majority leader said.

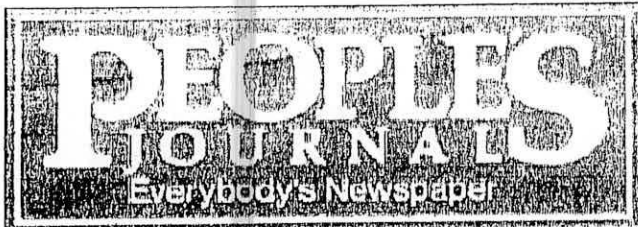
She explained that with SB 1754 already incorporating provisions of HB 5828, there would be no need for a bicameral conference committee.

Herrera-Dy said the bill could still be passed when session resumes on May 20.

The bill provides a clear definition of public utility that covers three sectors: distribution of electricity system, transmission of electricity system and water pipeline distribution system or sewerage pipeline system.

Herrera-Dy said public utility status for the water concessionaires will mean their ability to charge their customers can be reasonably limited.

Jovee Marie N. Dela Cruz



15 APR 2019

DATE

Put up rainwater collectors, bgyms urged

By Ryan Ponce
Pacpaco

A METRO Manila congressman has urged barangays and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to take advantage of the People's Survival Fund (PSF) so they can put up functional rainwater collectors in their communities.

Deputy Minority Leader and Makati City Rep. Luis Campos Jr. underscored the importance of using PSF with 61 percent of the country including Metro Manila reeling from drought brought on by El Niño.

"The PSF is a special annual fund in the National Treasury that provides subsidy to climate change adaptation and natural disaster resilience strategies, including the installation of practical rainwater har-

vesters," said Campos.

The fund was established by law to supplement the yearly money set aside by national agencies as well as local governments for programs and projects meant to build up the capability of communities to cope with harsh weather conditions, according to Campos.

Camarines Sur Rep. RRay Villafuerte said Congress could help address the dry spell problem by requiring commercial, institutional and residential estate developers to install rainwater retention facilities in their projects in Metro Manila and other major cities.

Villafuerte said the current water rationing in Metro Manila should prompt the Congress to place on the front burner bills on water conservation such as his proposal outlined in House Bill

(HB) No. 8088 on the construction of facilities converting harvested rainwater for non-potable uses.

"Rainwater is a free, abundant, and regular natural resource that the Philippines is fortunate to receive year in and out. It is high time that we make use of it for the general advantage of our people," said Villafuerte.

The PSF never runs out of money because it is guaranteed a replenishable balance of at least P1 billion every year under the law, Campos said, referring to Republic Act (RA) No. 10174, which reinforced the Climate Change Act of 2009.

The fund is administered by the People's Survival Fund Board, composed of the heads of the Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, Department of the Interior

and Local Government, National Economic and Development Authority and the Philippine Commission on Women, along with the vice chairperson of the Climate Change Commission, and one representative each from the scientific community, the business sector, and non-governmental organizations.

Campos, meanwhile, backed calls for a congressional inquiry into the lackluster execution of the 30-year-old Rainwater Collector and Springs Development Law, or RA No. 6715.

"We will introduce the resolution enabling the inquiry," Campos said.

The largely unimplemented 1989 law requires the Department of Public Works and Highways to construct rainwater collectors in all barangays countrywide.



PRRD TEAM CLEANS OUR MOTHER NATURE

NAKATUTUWA itong mga nagdaang araw. Nakita natin ang inisyatibo ng mga lokal na pamahalaan sa Kalakhang Maynila na talaga namang nililinis nila nang sabayan ang mga daluyang-tubig lalo na yaong mga estero na dating malusog ngunit pinatay ng basura.

Salamat, Pangulong RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE sa iyong inisyatibo. Mula sa Boracay, tungo sa El Nido at ngayon ang napakalaking Manila Bay. Kasunod niyan ang utos mula sa Department of the Interior and Local Government sa lahat ng lokal na pamahalaan para lumahok sa pambansang kalinisan!

Noong una ay pinupuna ng taga-oposisyon at mga kritiko si Pangulong DUTERTE doon pa lang sa pagpapalinis niya ng Boracay. Kesyo mabibigo raw ang Pangulo at marami pa silang pintas. Pero nang matapos, mismo ang mga dayuhang turista ay namangha, lalo na yaong napakaraming ulit ng nagtutungo roon – kakaiba raw ang linis ng Boracay ngayon!

Itong huli ay matinding hamon ang hinaharap ng binuo ni Mayor DIGONG na kolektibong komite para linisin ang Inang Kalikasan. Halukayin ang ilalim ng Manila Bay. Ang matindi, sakop ng Manila Bay ang maraming lalawigan at bayan. Kaya ba?

Sa tingin natin, mismo ang punong tagapagpaganap ng Komite, ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources



BALETODO

ni ED VERZOLA

(DENR) ay hindi na mapigilan sa kanilang pagganap. Sa pangunguna ni Usec. BENNY ANTIPODA, kasama ang maraming tauhan ng iba't ibang ahensya, aba, parang mauubos ang araw kung magtrabaho! Isama na ngayon pati ang pagkilos ng mga lokal na pamahalaan, hindi malayo na malilinis nang lubusan ang INANG KALIKASAN!

Sana nga ay huwag nang maghintay ang maraming bayan at lalawigan sa buong bansa. Malaki ang problema natin lalo na sa panahon ng tagtuyot. Nandiyan ang El Nino at La Nina na kapwa sumisira ng yaman ng bansa.

Sana ay sabayan natin ang inisyatibo ni Pangulong RODY. It's about time na ngayon lang nakialam ang Pangulo ng bansa sa pagtutok at paglilinis hindi lamang ng lipunan kundi mismo ng Inang Kalikasan.

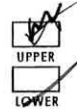
Tara kababayan, gumalaw tayo nang batay sa malinis natin na konsyensiya at pangarap na makita ang Pilipinas bilang tunay na PERLAS NG SILANGAN!



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANGSA



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Clean-up drive sa Tarlac

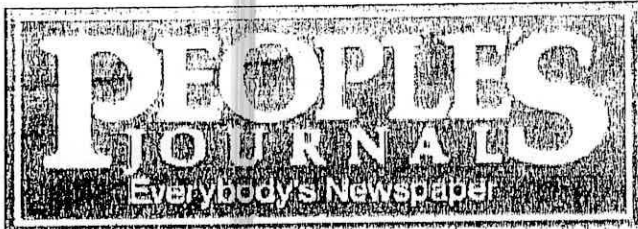
Pinangunahan ng mga tauhan ng Tarlac Police Provincial Office (TPPO) ang isinagawang clean-up drive sa irrigation canal sa Barangay San Juan Bautista, Tarlac City, kamakailan.

Sinabi ng TPPO, sinimulan ang paglilinis sa bahagi ng National Irrigation Administration (NIA) North main canal, nitong Biyernes na tatagal ng isang linggo.

Kabilang sa nakibahagi sa paglilinis ang Police Provincial Headquarters, 1st and 2nd Provincial Mobile Force Companies; Municipal Police Stations, Criminology students mula sa Tarlac State University, Barangay Officials ng San Juan Bautista, City government at Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office.

Sa unang araw ng paglilinis, nakahakot ang mga ito ng apat na truck ng basura.

Leandro Alborote



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Tolentino: Save earth, ban plastics

By Paul M. Gutierrez

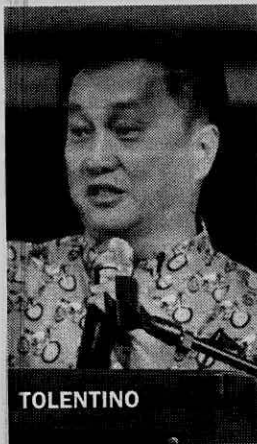
"LET'S encourage government offices to gradually ban the use of plastics and do regular clean-up activities," former MMDA Chair and administration Senate bet Francis Tolentino proposed yesterday as he called for a "serious and concerted effort to encourage a culture that cares for the environment."

Tolentino's remark coincided with the start of April's Earth Month commemoration. Earth Day 2019 will be celebrated on April 22.

"Our ultimate goal should be the total ban of plastics nationwide, but we have to start somewhere, and government is a good place to start. We should lead by example and walk the talk. The government cannot expect citizens to value cleanliness if we who serve do not actively implement pro-environment measures," Tolentino added.

The Senate bet explained that an effective ban should focus on single-use plastics, which include plastic bags, coffee cups, bottled water, straws, coffee stirrers, and food packaging or wrappers.

"The Philippine Information Agency (PIA), for example, has already started efforts in late 2018 to ban these single-use plastics in their offices and attached agencies. We just need to popularize the campaign in other departments and start changing the mindset of



TOLENTINO

people in government regarding their everyday dependence on plastic products."

A 2015 report by the United Nations Environment Program revealed that about half of all of the plastic waste that ends up in the oceans comes from just five countries: China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

UN statistics further noted that the Philippines wastes 6,237,653 kg (6875.84 tons) of plastic per day, of which 81% is mismanaged. By contrast, Japan and the United States similarly waste millions of kilograms per day -- 19,605,620 kg and 37,729,383 kg respectively -- but both had a 0% mismanagement rating.

"Of course we've made strides in the no plastics campaign because cities such as Makati, Quezon City, Pasig, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, and Pasay have implemented the local ordinances to that effect. We want to expand coverage to government agen-

cies, and to make it nationwide at the soonest possible time," the former MMDA head said.

"In addition, we should enlist government agencies to be involved in regular cleanup campaigns as a necessary next step to the plastics ban."

Tolentino noted that he would propose the issuance of an executive order by President Rodrigo Duterte delineating the administration's single-use plastic policy.

He further noted he was closely monitoring both houses of Congress after they passed their respective versions of bills banning the use of single-use plastics.

House Bill 8962 was filed last January while the Senate has its own version (Senate Bill 1948), each aiming to regulate the manufacturing, importation, and use of single-use plastic products. The measures likewise provide penalties, levies, and incentives for industries, businesses, and consumers.

"The plastics ban and cleanup drives go hand in hand. I'd definitely lead any efforts to popularize these campaigns, especially in government."

The Senate bet added that since the campaign season is ongoing, candidates should be mindful about using recyclable materials for their posters, handouts and other campaign paraphernalia.

"It's all in line with the call for setting a good example to the public," Tolentino emphasized.



TOLENTINO: PLASTIC BAN SUPORTAHAN!

KAUGNAY sa selebrasyon ng Earth Day ngayong taon, hinikayat ng dating MMDA Chairman at senatorial candidate na si Francis Tolentino ang mga taong-gobyerno na makilahok sa malawakang paglilinis at pagwaksi sa paggamit ng plastic sa mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan "bilang isang seryosong hakbang upang pairalin ang kulturang kumakalinga sa kalikasan."

Kasabay ang pahayag ni Tolentino sa komemorasyon ng Earth Month at Earth Day sa ika-22 ng Abril.

"Nakaangkla ang ating panawagan sa ambisyong ipagbawal na ng lubusan ang plastic sa buong bansa at dapat na simulan natin sa pamahalaan. Manguna tayo bilang halimbawa sa ating mamamayan bilang mga lingkod-bayan sa pagpapahalaga sa kalikasan sa pamamagitan ng mga hakbang

para sa pagpapalinis ng kapaligiran," ayon kay Tolentino.

Paliwanag pa ng pambatong senador ng administrasyon, ang isang epektibong pagbabawal ay dapat na nakatuon sa "single-use plastic" kagaya ng mga supot, basong plastic, bote, straw, parighalo ng kape at mga pambalot ng pagkain.

"Halimbawa, nasimulan na ng Philippine Information Agency noong nakaraang taon ang ban sa single-use plastic sa kanilang mga tanggapan. Kailangan nating pasikatin ang kampanyang ito sa iba pang mga departamento at simulan nating baguhin ang pag-iisip ng mga taong-gobyerno sa araw-araw nilang pagkagumon sa produktong gawa sa plastic."

Napaulat noong 2015 na kalahati sa mga basurang plastic sa karagatan ng mundo ay galing lang sa mga bansang Tsina, Indonesia, Pilipinas, Thailand at Vietnam. Ang Pilipinas,

ayon sa ulat ay nagtatapon ng mahigit anim na toneladang plastic araw-araw.

"May mga nauna nang hakbang ang ilang lungsod gaya ng Makati, Quezon City, Pasig, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, at Pasay sa pamamagitan ng mga ordinansang nagbabawal sa paggamit nito, ngunit kailangan nating palawakin ang pagpapatu-

pad ng mga katulad na kautusan sa lahat ng tanggapan ng pamahalaan upang gawin itong pambansang kampanya sa laalong madaling panahon," diin pa ng dating MMDA Chairman.

Imumungkahi umano ni Tolentino kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagbabalangkas ng isang executive order upang gawing mas malinaw ang pa-



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Mga taga-gobyerno makilahok - Tolentino

KAUGNAY sa selebrasyon ng Earth Day ngayong taon, hini-kayat ng dating MMDA Chairman at senatorial candidate na si Francis Tolentino ang mga taong-gobyerno na makilahok sa malawakang paglilinis at pagwaksi sa paggamit ng plastic sa mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan "bilang isang seryosong hakbang upang pairalin ang kulturang kumakalinga sa kalikasan."

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MALAWAKANG PLASTIC BAN

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"May mga nauna nang hakbang ang ilang lungsod gaya ng Makati, Quezon City, Pasig, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, at Pasay sa pamamagitan ng mga ordinansang nagbabawal sa paggamit nito, ngunit kailangan nating palawakin ang pagpapatupad ng mga katulad na kautusan sa lahat ng tanggapan ng pamahalaan upang gawin itong pambansang kampanya sa lalong ma-

daling panahon," bigay-diin pa ng dating MMDA Chairman.

"Palawigin pa natin sa pamamagitan ng pag-sasagawa ng regular at sabayang paglilinis bilang kasunod na hakbang sa pagbabawal ng plastic."

Imumungkahi umano ni Tolentino sa Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagbabalangkas ng isang executive order upang gawing mas malinaw ang papel na gagampanan ng mga opisina at tanggapan sa single-use plastic policy ng administrasyon.

Ang hakbang na ito ni Tolentino ay bilang susog sa mga panukalang batas na naisampa sa Kongreso kaugnay sa naturang polisiya - ang

House Bill 8962 at ang Senate Bill 1948 - na naglalayong limitahan ang paggawa, importasyon, at paggamit ng mga produktong single-use plastic sa bansa. Nagpapatay rin ang mga ito ng parusa, pagbubuwis at insentibo sa mga industriya, negosyo at karaniwang konsyumer.

"Magkaakibat ang ban sa plastic at ang mga cleanup drive. Titiyakin ko na ating pangungunahan ang lahat ng hakbang tungkol dito, lalo na sa gobyerno," ani Tolentino kasabay ng paalala sa lahat ng kandidato hinggil sa paggamit ng recyclable materials sa kanilang mga polyeto, poster at iba pang ipinamamahagi sa kampanya.



Tolentino nanawagan sa malawakang

PLASTIC BAN

KAUGNAY sa selebrasyon ng Earth Day ngayong taon, hinikayat ng ex-MMDA Chairman at senatorial bet na si Francis Tolentino ang mga taong-gobyerno na makilahok sa malawakang paglilinis at pagwaksi sa paggamit ng plastic sa mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan "bilang isang seryosong hakbang upang pairalin ang kulturang kumakalinga sa kalikasan." /Page 15



NIPaulm GUTIERREZ

PLASTIC

Mula Pahina 1

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Paliwanag pa ng pambatong senador ng administrasyon, ang isang epektibong pagbabawal ay dapat na nakatuon sa "single-use plastic" kagaya ng mga supot, basong plastic, bote, straw, panghalo ng kape at mga pambalot ng pagkain.

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TOLENTINO NANAWAGAN PARA SA MALAWAKANG PLASTIC BAN

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araw.

"May mga nauna nang hakbang ang ilang lungsod gaya ng Makati, Quezon City, Pasig, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, at Pasay sa pamamagitan ng mga ordinansang nagbabawal sa paggamit nito, ngunit kailangan nating palawakin ang pagpapatupad ng mga katulad na kautusan sa lahat ng tanggapan ng pamahalaan upang gawin itong pambansang kampanya sa lalong madaling panahon," bigay-diin pa ng dating MMDA Chairman.

"Palawigin pa natin sa pamamagitan ng pagsasagawa ng regular at sabayang paglilinis bilang kasunod na hakbang sa pagbabawal ng plastic."

Imumungkahi umano ni Tolentino sa Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagbabalangkas ng isang executive order upang gawing mas malinaw ang papel na gagampanan ng mga opisina at tanggapan sa single-use plastic policy ng administrasyon.

Ang hakbang na ito ni Tolentino ay bilang susog sa mga panukalang batas na naisampa sa Kongreso kaugnay sa naturang polisiya - ang House Bill 8962 at ang Senate Bill 1948 - na naglalayong limitahan ang paggawa, importasyon, at paggamit ng mga produktong single-use plastic sa bansa. Nagpapataw din ang mga ito ng parusa, pagbubuwis at insentibo sa mga industriya, negosyo at karaniwang konsyumer.



Best EnviroKid, EnviroTeen 2019 kinilala sa San Juan

KINILALA sa San Juan City ang mga nanalo sa ginanap na 2018-2019 Best Envirokid, Enviroteen, at Enviro Teacher Coordinator bilang parangal sa pagtatapos ng klase ng mga pampublikong paaralan sa siyudad.

Nakuha ni Curby R. Francisco, Grade 6 student ang Best Enviro Kid award mula sa N. Ibuna Elementary School, Best Enviro Teacher Coordinator award ang nakuha ni Rowena Sanchez ng N. Ibuna Elementary School.

EnviroKid naman mula sa Pinaglabanan Elementary School ang nakuha ni Kathleen Mae Marcos at nag-uwi din ng Best EnviroTeen award sa naganap na awarding sa city hall ng San Juan, kamakailan.

Pinangunahan ni San Juan City Mayor Guia Gomez, kasama sina Ariel Atad (SK), Herbert Chua, Allen Silvano, Boyet Aquino at City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Head

Dante Santiago.

Ang criteria ng programa ay home visitations, school activities, examination results at final interview, kabilang dito ang home visitations upang malaman kung ginagawa ng mga kalahok ang tamang paggamit ng solid waste management techniques na tinuturo ng CENRO.

Tumanggap ng tig-P5,000.00 cash award ang mga nanalo na sina Marcos, Francisco, at Sanchez habang ang 10 EnviroTeen na kalahok ay nakatanggap ng medal at P2,000.00 cash award mula kay Mayor Guia Gomez.

Sinimulan ang Enviro-Kidz project noong 2011 bilang pagkilala sa mga piling public elementary school student na sumusunod sa ipinatutupad na environmental protection and preservation na kung saan itinuturo sa mga paaralan ang tamang waste segregation, conservation, recycling, at climate change program. **(Vick Aquino)**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSA

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CARTOON

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₱507-M proyekto sa Bora

ILOILO CITY - Naglabas ng P507 milyon ang Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) para sa ipatutupad na mga proyekto nito sa Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan.

Ayon kay Western Visayas regional director Cyril Ticao, inilaan ito sa iba't ibang short-term and long-term livelihood program upang maibsan ang epekto ng anim na buwang pagsasara ng isla noong nakaraang taon at sa limitasyon sa labor force matapos itong buksan muli sa publiko.

Kabilang aniya sa proyekto ang Boracay Emergency Employment Program Adjustment Measures Program (BEEP AMP), DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (DILEEP Kabuhayan), at government internship program.

Makikinabang din aniya sa proyekto ang mga nawalan ng trabaho sa mga hotel at resort, gayundin sa panig ng informal working sector, kabilang na ang Ati indigenous peoples (IPs).

Tara Yap