

DATE : 23 MAY 2019

DAY : Thursday

# **DENR**

## **IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



## Phl Eagles on loan to Singapore for conservation

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The Philippines is lending a pair of the country's national bird to Singapore for conservation amid its continued vulnerability to impacts of environmental conditions.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has inked an agreement with Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) for the loan and conservation of a pair of critically endangered Philippine Eagles.

Raptors Geothermica and Sambisig will be brought to Jurong Bird Park on June 4. The 20.2-hectare park is Asia's largest bird park that is home to close to 3,500 birds across 400 species, of which 20 percent is threatened.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the DENR aims to stimulate international support for a conservation program for the Philippine Eagle, along with a biosecurity measure against risks arising from catastrophic events such as disease outbreaks.

"Sending Geothermica and Sambisig to Singapore acts as a biosecurity measure to ensure the survival of the species and as a fallback population in the event of catastrophic events like disease outbreaks or extreme natural calamities taking place in their Philippine habitats," Cimatu said.

Known as the largest of the extant eagles in the world in terms of length and wing surface, the Philippine Eagle is listed as "critically endangered" in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List and the country's National List of Threatened Species.

Last year, the DENR issued a circular that lays down the protocol, which allows the keeping of captive populations of the Philippine Eagle in qualified institutions for conservation, scientific research and public education.

It marked the first time that the Philippines, through the DENR, entered into an agreement of its kind with a foreign institution.

Under the agreement, the DENR commits to send the raptors to Singapore, issue necessary permits for the transportation to the facility of WRS, and monitor the birds annually.

The WRS, for its part, assumes full responsibility in ensuring the proper care, handling, maintenance and security of the loaned Philippine Eagles in its facility.

It has committed that the Philippine Eagles, including their genetic materials and any derivatives, remain the sole property of the Philippines. It will also submit an annual report on the status and development of the birds.

Both Geothermica and Sambisig, aged 15 and 17 years old, respectively, are products of the conservation breeding program of the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City.

WRS deputy chief executive officer Cheng Wen-Haur said there is strong synergy between both countries to focus on protecting animals, particularly threatened Southeast Asian species.

"We can actively contribute in a greater capacity to raise awareness of the threats that the wild cousins of these eagles face in the wild, even as we continue the work of breeding to fight extinction," he added.

Experts estimate that there are fewer than 400 pairs of Philippine Eagles in the wild. Hunting and loss of forest habitat remain the primary threats to its survival.

Because of its small population, the Philippine Eagle is vulnerable to environmental conditions such as natural calamities and disease outbreaks.

"Being an iconic species and one requiring vast forest as habitat, the conservation of the Philippine Eagle continues to be one of the rallying points in setting aside the remaining forest areas of this country as protected area," Cimatu said.

- With Rhodina Villanueva



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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# MANILA BULLETIN

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## DENR shuts down 10 Boracay establishments

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has closed down 10 establishments in Boracay for continuously operating without appropriate permits.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, who also chairs the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), appealed to the local and foreign establishment owners and people in Boracay to follow government rules and regulations.

"I once said that Boracay will never be a 'cesspool' again, but we need all the support and cooperation of everybody to sustain the gains we have made from the massive rehabilitation we have done to the island. Let us continue to be guardians of the island and prevent it from sliding back," Cimatu said.

Last Tuesday, the BIATF, through the local government of Malay, Aklan, closed Bella's Bar and Restaurant, Old Captain Cuisine, Ken Minimart, Ken St., Island Staff Restaurant, Coco Spa, Kim Ji Man, W Hostel Boracay Dragon, VIP Souvenir Shop, and YH World Network Service, Inc.

Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Group general manager Natividad Bernardino, who led the government team that served the closure orders, said the crackdown was ordered by Cimatu amid reports that Chinese businesses have proliferated in the island, with business name signage and restaurant menu written only in Chinese characters and catering exclusively to Chinese tourists.

It was also observed that there was an increasing number

of Chinese and Korean nationals working as tour guides, restaurant chefs and staff, Bernardino said.

According to her, an ad hoc committee was created by the BIATF on April 25 to carry out the task of inspecting and looking into possible violations of these foreign-run businesses, including aliens staying and working in Boracay without valid work permits and visa.

The committee was composed of representatives from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Immigration (BI), DENR and the local government of Malay.

Bernardo said that from May 7 to May 9, the DILG-led Boracay Inspection Committee inspected a total of 49 establishments with foreign business name signage.

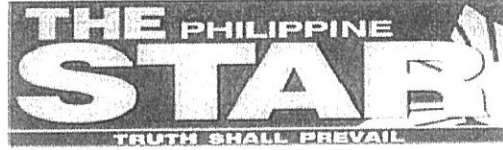
Ten of them were found operating without mayor's permits and another 14 had incomplete requirements from the LGU and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP).

The list of non-compliant foreign-run businesses was endorsed by DILG Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III to Malay Mayor Abram Sualog for the issuance of closure orders.

"We cannot allow flagrant violation by foreign nationals of our country's laws and regulations, especially in the island which we have painstakingly rehabilitated," Densing said. (Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz)



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# Chinese, Korean businesses in Boracay ordered closed

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

**At least 10 establishments in Boracay owned or managed by Chinese and South Korean citizens have been ordered closed for operating without the necessary permits.**

The Boracay Interagency Task Force, through the Malay local government, padlocked Bella's Bar and Restaurant, Old Captain Cuisine, Ken Minimart, Ken St., Island Staff Restaurant, Coco Spa, Kim Ji Man, W Hostel Boracay Dragon, VIP Souvenir Shop

and YH World Network Service Inc. that were among the 49 establishments inspected from May 7 to 9.

"I once said that Boracay will never be a cesspool again... We need the support and cooperation of everyone to sustain our gains... from

the massive rehabilitation... of the island," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

Natividad Bernardino, Boracay Interagency Rehabilitation Group general manager, said the crackdown on erring establishments was ordered amid reports that Chinese businesses have proliferated on the island, with signages and menus written only in Chinese characters and catering exclusively to Chinese tourists.

"It was also observed that

there is an increasing number of Chinese and Korean citizens working as tour guides, chefs and restaurant staff," Bernardino said.

An ad hoc committee was created last month to inspect establishments run by foreigners and determine if there are foreigners staying and working in Boracay without work permits and visas.

The list of non-compliant foreign-owned businesses was endorsed by Interior Undersecretary Epimaco Dens-

ing to Malay Mayor Abram Sualog for closure.

"We cannot allow flagrant violation by foreign citizens of our country's laws and regulations, especially on the island, which we have painstakingly rehabilitated," Densing said.

Data showed that Chinese and Korean tourists account for 56 and 37 percent, respectively, of the total number of foreigners who entered the country in the first quarter of the year.



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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## DENR CRACKS DOWN ON 10 BUSINESS FIRMS IN BORACAY

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) again ordered the closure of 10 establishments in Boracay, mostly owned by Chinese and Koreans, that are still operating without necessary permits.

The Boracay Inter-agency Task Force (BIATF) inspected the establishments and, through the Malay local government unit, closed the 10 establishments, namely Bella's Bar and Restaurant, Old Captain Cuisine, Ken Minimart, Ken St., Island Staff Restaurant, Coco Spa, Kim Ji Man, W Hostel Boracay Dragon, VIP Souvenir Shop and YH World Network Service Inc.

Of the 49 establishments the task force inspected, 10 were found actively operating without a mayor's permit, and another 14 had incomplete requirements from the local government and the Bureau of Fire Protection.

In a statement on Tuesday, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu reiterated his call on all establishments and the people in Boracay, both local

and foreign, to observe rules and regulations of the government for the complete rehabilitation of Boracay Island, which started in Oct. 26, 2018.

"I once said that Boracay will never be a cesspool again, but we need the cooperation of everybody to sustain the gains we have made from the massive rehabilitation we have done in the island. Let us continue to be its guardians and prevent it from sliding back," Cimatu said.

Undersecretary Epimaco Densing 3rd of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) endorsed the list of noncompliant foreign-run businesses to Malay Mayor Abram Sualog for the issuance of closure orders.

"We cannot allow flagrant violation by foreign nationals of our country's laws and regulations, especially on the island, which we have painstakingly rehabilitated," Densing said.

Meanwhile, Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Group General Manager Natividad Bernardino, who led the gov-

ernment team that served the closure orders, said Chinese businesses had proliferated on the island, with business names, signages and restaurant menus written only in Chinese characters, and catering exclusively to Chinese tourists.

It was also observed that there had been an increasing number of Chinese and Koreans working as tour guides, restaurant chefs and staff, Bernardo added.

She said the BIATF created an ad hoc committee on April 25 to inspect the establish-

ments and look into possible violations by these foreign-run businesses, including aliens staying and working in Boracay without valid work permits and visas.

The committee was composed of representatives from the DILG, Department of Tourism, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Labor and Employment, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Immigration, DENR and the local government of Malay, Aklan.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



## 10 business establishments ordered closed in Boracay island

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Tuesday ordered the closure of 10 foreign-owned business establishments for operating in Boracay island without government permits.

The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), through the local government of Malay, Aklan, shuttered Bella's Bar and Restaurant, Old Captain Cuisine, Ken Minimart, Ken St., Island Staff Restaurant, Coco Spa, Kim Ji Man, W Hostel Boracay Dragon, VIP Souvenir Shop, and YH World Network Service, Inc.

"I once said that Boracay will never be a 'cesspool' again, but we need all the support and cooperation of everybody to sustain the gains we have made from the massive rehabilitation we have done to the island. Let us continue to be guardians of the island and prevent it from sliding back," Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said in a statement on Wednesday.

Mr. Cimatu earlier ordered the crackdown on business establish-

ments in Boracay, after receiving reports there have been an increase in the number of Chinese-owned businesses catering exclusively to Chinese tourists.

In a statement, Natividad Y. Bernardino, general manager of BIATF, said a committee was formed to look into possible violations of foreign-run businesses, as well as foreigners working in Boracay without valid work permits and visa.

The committee inspected 49 establishments from May 7-9, and 10 were found to be operating without permits from the mayor's office. Another 14 were found to have incomplete requirements from the local government unit and the Bureau of Fire Protection.

"We cannot allow flagrant violation by foreign nationals of our country's laws and regulations, especially in the island which we have painstakingly rehabilitated," Department of Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III said. — **VMPG**



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## DENR shuts down 10 establishments in Boracay

By Joel dela Torre

**ENVIRONMENT** Secretary Roy Cimatu yesterday reiterated his call on establishments and the people in Boracay to strictly observe the rules and regulations imposed by the government as he ordered anew a crackdown on businesses that continue to operate without appropriate permits.

According to Cimatu, the effort put up by the inter-agency task force should not just go to waste due to these people who refuse to follow orders.

On Tuesday, the Boracay IATF through the local government of Malay, Aklan closed down 10 erring establishments for not complying with government laws.

These were the Bella's Bar and Restaurant, Old Captain Cuisine, Ken Minimart, Ken St., Island Staff and Restaurant, Coco Spa, Kim Ji Man, W Hostel Boracay Dragon, VIP Souvenir Shop and YH World Network Service, Inc.

"I once said that Boracay will never be a 'cess-pool' again, but we need all the support and cooperation of everybody to sustain the gains we have made from the massive rehabilitation we have

done to the island. Let us continue to be guardians of the island and prevent it from sliding back," Cimatu said.

Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Group general manager Natividad Bernardino, said the crackdown on the erring establishments was ordered by Cimatu in the wake of reports that Chinese businesses have proliferated in the island, with business name signage and restaurant menu written only in Chinese characters, and catering exclusively to Chinese tourists.

It was also observed that there was an increasing number of Chinese and Korean nationals working as tour guides, restaurant chefs and staff, Bernardo said.

On April 25, an Ad Hoc Committee was created to carry out the task of inspecting and looking into possible violations of these foreign-run businesses, including aliens staying and working in Boracay, without valid work permits and visa.

The committee was composed of representatives from the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Tourism, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Labor and Employment,

Philippine National Police, Bureau of Immigration, DENR and the local government of Malay, Aklan.

Bernardo said that from May 7 to May 9, the DILG-led Boracay Inspection Committee inspected a total of 49 establishments with foreign business name signage.

Of the number, 10 were found actively operating without mayor's permits and another 14 had incomplete requirements from the LGU and the Bureau of Fire Protection.

The list of non-compliant foreign-run businesses was endorsed by DILG Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III to Malay Mayor Abram Sulalog for the issuance of closure orders.

"We cannot allow flagrant violation by foreign nationals of our country's laws and regulations, especially in the island which we have painstakingly rehabilitated," Densing said.

Island tourism statistics revealed that foreign visitors in Boracay have been dominated by Chinese and Korean nationals, representing 56% and 37%, respectively, of the total number of foreign tourists from January to March of 2019. The rest came from the United States of America, Russia and United Kingdom.



**MPIC GROUP, DENR SIGN MOU FOR MANILA BAY REHAB:** Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the Adopt-an-Estero Program under the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program. Apart from Maynilad, other MPIC companies namely Meralco, Metro Pacific Tollways Corp., Metro Pacific Hospital Holdings Inc. and Light Rail Manila Corp. will also be involved in adopting the assigned *esteros*. Present at the signing were MPIC president and chief executive officer Jose Maria Lim (5th from left), Maynilad president and chief executive officer Ramoncito Fernandez (7th from left) and Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu (6th from left). DENR officials led by Undersecretaries Sherwin Rigor, Jonas Leones, Rodolfo Garcia, Ernesto Adobo Jr., Analiza Teh, Juan Miguel Cuna and Benny Antiporda as well as Assistant Secretaries Corazon Davis, Joan Lagunda and Daniel Darius Nicer were also in attendance.





## MPIC Group signs MOU with DENR for Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. ("Maynilad") and Metro Pacific Investments Corporation ("MPIC") signed a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources ("DENR") for the Adopt-an-Estero Program under the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program.

The partnership, valid and effective for five years, was brought about by President Rodrigo R. Duterte's call for the need to launch integrated efforts to clean and rehabilitate Manila Bay as well as the inland waters that eventually drain into Manila Bay. MPIC and Maynilad recognized the deteriorated condition of most of the water bodies in Metro Manila and understood that the communities, even with government's help, can no longer address this issue effectively without help from others.

"MPIC has always been committed to protecting and preserving the natural environment, as well as promoting the health and safety of the general public" says Mr. Lim. "Upon acknowledging the objective of the DENR to promote stewardship among the private sector, MPIC through Maynilad is set on assisting government agencies in improving water quality parameters of the country's water bodies."

Apart from Maynilad, other MPIC companies namely Meralco, Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), Metro Pacific Hospital Holdings Inc. (MPHHI), and Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC) will also be involved in adopting the assigned esteros.

To support the government's efforts at environmental improvement MPIC will be adopting and restoring the following creeks (esteros) as stated in the MOU: Estero de Vitas, Estero de San



Lazaro, Estero de Kabulusan, Estero de Magdalena, Estero de Binondo, Estero dela Reina, Estero de Sampaloc, Estero de San Sebastian, Estero de San Miguel, Estero de Valencia, Estero de Quiapo, Estero de Uli-Uli, Estero de Paco, Estero de Pandacan, Estero de Tanque, Estero de Balete, Estero de Provisor, Estero de Concordia, Estero de Sunog Apog, and Estero de San Antonio Abad. The corporation will work in close coordination with the DENR, local government units, other concerned government agencies, and stakeholders in implementing the recommended interventions.

MPIC will also support the clean-up of the adopted esteros by providing logistical support and assisting in mobilizing neighboring schools and communities to participate. In addition, Maynilad will fast track some of the wastewater plans and programs under their existing Business Plan which include rehabilitation of sewer lines, intensify efforts to connect domestic, including non-domestic customers to the existing sewage network, install collector pipes at easements cleared by the Pasig River

Rehabilitation Commission ("PRRC"), accelerate sewerage coverage and conduct information and education campaigns relating to wastewater treatment and disposal.

MPIC, Maynilad, and the DENR recognize that the concerted efforts of both the public and private sectors to clean Manila Bay's riverine tributaries will have beneficial effects on the health and well-being of the public, promote environmental sustainability, and allow for flexibility in a climate of global warming.

Present for the signing were MPIC's President and Chief Executive Officer Jose Maria K. Lim, Maynilad's President and Chief Executive Officer Ramoncito S. Fernandez and DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu. DENR officials Undersecretary Sherwin S. Rigor, Undersecretary Jonas R. Leones, Undersecretary Rodolfo C. Garcia, Undersecretary Ernesto D. Adobo Jr., Undersecretary Analiza R. Teh, Undersecretary Juan Miguel T. Cuna, Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda, Asst Secretary Corazon C. Davis, Asst Secretary Joan A. Lagunda, and Asst. Secretary Daniel Darius M. Nicer, were also in attendance.



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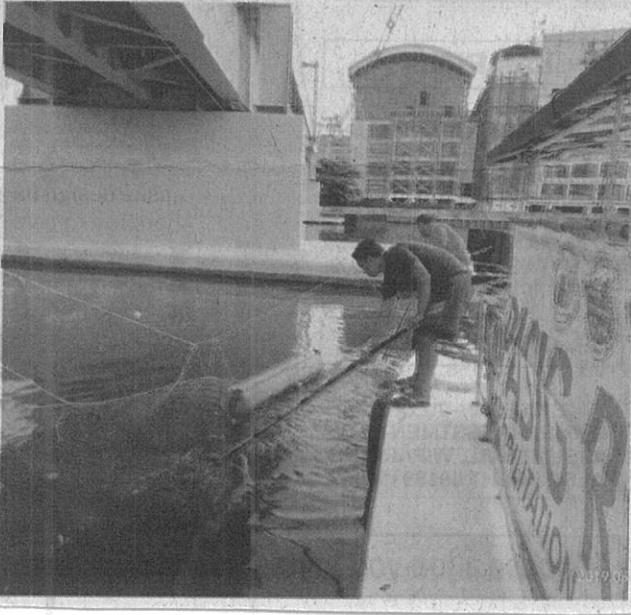
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# CLEANING OUR RIVERS

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) diverted 162,390 kilograms of waste (5,413 sacks of garbage) pushed by the high tide Manila Bay into the Pasig River during its series of massive clean-up operations which started April 27.

The huge volume of waste that enters and are seen along the Pasig River at present is caused by the backflow of Manila Bay which is a natural phenomenon observed especially this time of the year, and by the San Juan River and some esteros draining garbage and polluted water after the recent heavy rains.

PRRC's River Warriors, River Patrols, River Watch, and other employees are doing manual clean-up daily and utilizing two small trash boats. Clean-up operations are being conducted especially in Manila and San Juan River including the Malacañan area.



To further abate the influx of waste into the Pasig River, the PRRC has installed trash traps in several strategic locations such as along Parola riverbank (bamboo traps), as well as under the McArthur Bridge, Quezon Bridge, Paco-Station, Mesa Bridge – all in the City of Manila.

PRRC is now placing new trash traps and continuous clean-up in San Juan River – one of the major tributaries of the 47 identified waterways connected to the Pasig River and carries the wastes of the cities of Manila, Mandaluyong, San Juan, and Quezon.

The clean-up operations will continue in the following weeks to ensure that the rehabilitation efforts to the historic Pasig River System are maintained and sustained.

"I'm calling for the support of everyone, including our fellow government agencies, LGUs, and all sectors of society to help us in our efforts to clean, save, and protect the Pasig River as part of our obligation to our environment and in support of the comprehensive rehabilitation of the Manila Bay," said PRRC Executive Director Jose Antonio E. Goitia.





REHABILITATION EFFORTS UPDATE

# 400 TRUCKLOADS OF TRASH TAKEN FROM MANILA BAY SINCE JANUARY

By **Krixia Subingsubing**  
@krixiasINQ

Some 400 truckloads of silt and trash have already been removed from Manila Bay since the government kicked off its rehabilitation program in January, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said on Wednesday.

However, two crucial components of long-term rehabilitation—the relocation of informal settlers and installation of sewerage treatment plants—have yet to be completed.

A summary report from the MMDA's Flood Control and Sewerage Management Office (FC-SMO) said 3,018 cubic meters of trash had been collected since the rehabilitation started.

The MMDA is part of an interagency effort led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to clean up the bay. Targeted areas include the shoreline of Manila Bay on Roxas Boulevard, Estero San Antonio de Abad, Tripa de Gallina, Padre

Faura drainage main, Remedios drainage main and some drainage laterals, said FC-SMO chief Balthazar Melgar.

### Problem area

San Antonio, Padre Faura and Remedios, in particular, serve as catchment for much of the waste coming from Taft Avenue, which Melgar identified as a particular problem area.

"There are condominiums, restaurants and business establishments along that area that feed their untreated waste directly into the drainage," he said. "If they would treat their waste first, it would go a long way into helping save the bay."

With the cleanup completed, the DENR should be able to build sewerage treatment plants to clip pollution at the drainage laterals, he added.

Also part of the interagency cleanup efforts is the relocation of some 100,000 informal settler families living beside the bay, particularly at Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila, as they contribute to pollution. INQ



**BAY WATCH** A mother and her children relax by the side of the bay at Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila, one of the areas targeted for clearing operations. —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ



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## 400 truckloads of garbage cleared

The Manila Bay cleanup brigade of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has collected a total of 3,018 cubic meters of garbage and silt in nearly four months.

The MMDA's Flood Control and Sewerage Management Office said the volume of rubbish its personnel have collected from 27 January to 17 May is equivalent to 400 truckloads.

### **Manila Bay cleanup progressing but far from halfway through, says MMDA.**

Covered by the clearing operation were the shores of Manila Bay on Roxas Boulevard, Estero San Antonio de Abad, Tripa De Galina, and the Padre Faura and Remedios main drainage systems.

The MMDA said clearing creeks leading to Manila Bay using backhoes, barges, motorized boats, scows and mobile cranes is a must to stop their garbage load from spilling into the bay.

The Manila Bay rehabilitation led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was launched on 27 January.

It seeks to clean and ensure Manila Bay and its vicinity will be free of garbage and debris through continuous dredging and desilting activities.

**Alvin Murcia**



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## Seoul reships CDO waste ✓

**By Joshua Lao**

Following the recent call for deeper economic cooperation between the Philippines and the South Korea, the latter affirmed its commitment to help in retrieving its illegally imported waste materials here in the country, the Department of Finance (DoF) said on Wednesday.

"The South Korean government has committed to help ship back to its country some 5,176 metric tons of waste materials illegally imported here last year," the DoF said.

The garbage is currently stored at the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority premises in Misamis Oriental.

In a report submitted by Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero to the Finance chief, an order of forfeiture and order of reexportation were issued by the port of Cagayan de Oro against the waste materials, which arrived here in bulk and containerized shipments.

In addition, the report said that Cebu-based Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp. unlawfully imported the waste materials sometime in July and October last year.

"The Korean government has expressed its commitment in collaborating with the Philippine government to execute the repatriation of these materials," Guerrero said.



## 400 trak ng basura, burak nahakot sa Manila Bay

**BILANG** bahagi ng Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project ng pamahalaang Duterte, umabot na sa kabuuang 3,018 cubic meters ng mga basura at burak ang nakolekta ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority mula sa Roxas Boulevard at mga kalapit na estero sa loob ng halos apat na buwan nilang pagsasagawa ng clean-up operation.

Mula Enero 27 hanggang Mayo 17, sinabi ng MMDA Flood Control and Sewerage Management Office na katumbas ng 400 dump trucks ang nahakot na basura at burak sa Manila Bay.

Kasama sa clearing operation ng FCSMO ang Manila Bay sa Roxas Boulevard, Estero San Antonio de Abad, Tripa De Gallina, Padre Faura Drainage Main, Remedios Drainage Main at iba pang esterong nakakonekta sa Manila Bay.

Ayon kay MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim, bago pa man ilunsad ang Manila Bay rehabilitation project ay nagsasagawa na ang mga tauhan ng ahensya ng clean-up operations sa mga estero sa Kamaynilaan.

"Marami pa tayong kailangang gawin pero sa tuloy-tuloy na aksyon ng gobyerno at stakeholders, maibabalik natin ang ganda at maaayos na kalidad ng tubig ng Manila Bay. Hinihikayat namin ang pakikisa ng lahat sa paglilinis sa lugar," ani Lim.

Ayon naman kay FCSMO Chief Baltazar Melgar, nasa 250 tauhan ng FCSMO ang naka-deploy sa mga estero na konekta-do sa Manila Bay. Gumagamit ang mga ito ng mga heavy equipment para sa paglilinis gaya ng backhoe, barge, motorized banca, scow, mobile crane at dump truck.

Inilunsad noong Enero 27 ang Manila Bay rehabilitation sa pangunguna ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Target ng proyektong malinis at masigurong walang basura ang Manila Bay at paligid nito sa pamamagitan ng dredging at desilting.

JAY REYES



### **400 truck ng basura, burak nahakot sa Manila Bay**

Umabot na sa 400 truck ang nahakot na mga basura at burak sa loob ng halos apat na buwan ng paglilinis sa Manila Bay.

Batay ito sa ulat ng Flood Control and Sewerage Management Office (FCSMO) ng MMDA kaugnay ng isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay mula Enero 27 hanggang Mayo 17 ngayong taon.

Kasama rin sa isinailalim sa paglilinis ang Estero San Antonio de Abad, Tripa De Gallina, Padre Faura Drainage Main, Remedios Drainage Main at iba pang estero na nakakonekta sa Manila Bay.

Sinimulan ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay noong Enero 27 sa pangunguna ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources at isinabay na rin ang paglilinis sa mga estero na dumadaloy dito.

Ayon kay FCSMO chief Baltazar Melgar, nasa 250 tauhan ng ahensya ang naglilinis sa mga estero na dumadaloy patungo sa Manila Bay gamit ang mga heavy equipment katulad ng backhoe, barge, motorized banca, mobile crane at dump truck. **(Armida Rico)**



## 400 truck ng basura, nahakot sa Manila Bay

Kabuuang 3,018 cubic meters ng basura at burak ang nakolekta ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) mula sa Roxas Boulevard at sa mga kalapit na estero sa apat na buwang Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project.

Sa buod ng accomplishment report mula Enero 27 hanggang Mayo 17, sinabi ng MMDA Flood Control and Sewerage Management Office (FCSMO) na 400 dump trucks ang katumbas ng nahakot na mga basura at burak sa Manila Bay.

Kasama sa clearing operation ng FCSMO ang Manila Bay sa Roxas Boulevard, Estero San Antonio de Abad, Tripa De Gallina, Padre Faura Drainage Main, Remedios Drainage Main at iba pang esterong nakakonekta sa Manila Bay.

Ayon kay MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim, bago pa man ilunsad ang Manila Bay

rehabilitation project ay nagsasagawa na ang mga tauhan ng ahensiya ng mga clean-up operation sa mga estero sa Maynila.

"Marami pa tayong kailangang gawin pero sa tuluy-tuloy na aksyon ng gobyerno at stakeholders, maibabalik natin ang ganda at maayos na kalidad ng tubig ng Manila Bay. Hinihikayat namin ang pakikiisa ng lahat sa paglilinis sa lugar," ani Lim.

Ayon naman kay FCSMO Chief Baltazar Melgar, nasa 250 tauhan ng FCSMO ang ipinaadala sa mga estero na konektado sa Manila Bay. Gumagamit ang mga ito ng mga mabibigat na kagamitan sa paglilinis ng backhoe, barge, motorized banca, scow, mobile crane, at dump truck.

"Aabot sa Manila Bay ang mga basura at burak kung hindi ito maaalis," ani Melgar.

**Bella Gamotea**





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# 400 TRUCKS NA BASURA NAHAKOT NG MMDA SA MANILA BAY

NASA kabuuang 3,018 cubic meters ng mga basura at burak o nasa kabuuang 400 trucks ang nahakot ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) mula sa Manila Bay at mga kalapit na estero sa loob ng halos apat na buwan bilang bahagi ng Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project.

Sa summary ng accomplishment mula Enero 27 hanggang Mayo 17 ng MMDA, sinabi ng MMDA Flood Control and Sewerage Management Office (FCSMO) na katumbas ng 400 dump trucks ang nahakot na mga basura at burak sa Manila Bay.

Kasama sa clearing operation ng FCSMO ang Manila Bay sa Roxas Boulevard, Estero San Antonio de Abad, Tripa De Gallina, Padre Faura Drainage Main, Remedios Drainage Main at iba pang esterong nakakonekta sa Manila

Bay.

Ayon kay MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim, bago pa man ilunsad ang Manila Bay rehabilitation project ay nagsasagawa na ang mga tauhan ng ahensya ng clean-up operations sa mga estero sa Kamaynilaan.

“Marami pa tayong kailangang gawin at sa tuloy-tuloy na aksyon ng gobyerno at stakeholders ay maibabalik natin ang ganda at maaayos na kalidad ng tubig ng Manila Bay. Hinihikayat namin ang pakikiisa ng lahat sa paglilinis sa lugar,” ani Lim.

Ayon naman kay FCSMO Chief Baltazar Melgar, nasa 250 tauhan ng FCSMO ang naka-deploy sa mga estero na konektado sa Manila Bay at sial ay gumagamit ng mga heavy equipment para sa paglilinis gaya ng backhoe, barge, motorized banca, scow, mobile crane, at dump truck.



“Aabot sa Manila Bay ang mga basura at burak kung hindi ito maaalis,” ani Melgar.

Inilunsad noong Enero 27 ang Manila Bay rehabilitation sa pangunguna ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Target ng proyektong malinis at masigurong walang basura ang Manila Bay at paligid nito sa pamamagitan ng dredging at desilting.

**MARIVIC FERNANDEZ**



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1800

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## Cebu landfill operator ordered to shut down

By **MINERVA BC NEWMAN**

**CEBU CITY** - The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) issued a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) to Asian Energy Systems Corp., operator of a sanitary landfill in Polog, Consolacion, Cebu, environmental violations.

EMB Director for Central Visayas William Cunado said Asian Energy Systems failed to implement its Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that resulted in a landslide last May 4.

The EMP is one of the conditions in the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) issued to the landfill operator on Feb. 10, 2010, Cunado said.

Asian Energy Systems was also found to have exceeded the wastewater effluent limit for Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Ammonia, and Total Coliform parameters, he added.

The CDO was served last May 7 and the company's officials were summoned to a Technical Conference and apprised of the violations.

The company was also fined P100,000.

Asian Energy Systems was required to submit a rehabilitation plan for the landslide area within 15 days and rehabilitate the affected area.

It was also ordered to immediately stop discharging wastewater and seal all leakages.



## Cebu landfill shut after 'garbage slide' kills driver

CEBU CITY—The Environmental Management Bureau in Central Visayas has ordered the closure of a private sanitary landfill in Consolacion, Cebu after a "garbage slide" last May 4 that reportedly killed a truck driver, an environmental regulatory body official said on Wednesday.

Engineer William Cuñado, regional director of EMB-Region 7, issued a cease and desist order against the sanitary landfill owned and operated by Asian Energy Systems Corporation located in Polog village in Consolacion.

The establishment was found to have violated the provisions of Environmental Impact Statement System (Presidential Decree 1586) and the Clean Air Act of 2004 (Republic Act 9275), Cuñado said.

"Based on the findings of the inspection conducted by EMB-7 personnel on April 23, 2019 and May 5, 2019, Asian Energy Systems Corp., failed to implement their Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that resulted to a landslide last May 4, 2019," the bureau said in a statement sent to the Philippine News Agency.

The EMP is listed as among the conditions of the landfill's Environmental Compliance Certificate issued by the EMB-7 last February 10, 2010.

"These ECC conditions are ought to be complied by the proponents," the statement read. Cindy Pepito, information officer of EMB-7, told PNA that the piles of garbage that fell from the top have slid all the way down to the service road.

According to her, a truck driver whose identity is yet to be established, was killed by the trash avalanche. EMB-7 investigators also found the landfill's failure to comply with the fifth condition of the ECC and the regulations laid down under RA 9275 as it reportedly "exceeded the wastewater effluent standards for chemical oxygen demand [COD], ammonia, and total coliform parameters."

The cease and desist order was served last May 7, but the appraisal of the landfill's compliance to the conditions as directed by the Technical Conference between the EMB-7 investigators and the management is ongoing.

The statement said the EMB-7 ordered the landfill to pay a fine of P100,000. To ensure commitment to solve the problem, the corporation that runs the landfill is required to submit rehabilitation plan in the area where the garbage-slide occurred within 15 days.

The bureau also directed the landfill management to conduct and implement a full rehabilitation and assessment of the area affected by garbage-slide.

The landfill is also required to immediately stop discharging to wastewater and seal all leakages to avoid violating the Clean Air Act.

Re-inspection will be conducted by EMB-7 to determine compliance. The corporation is required to observe the provisions of the closure order. Otherwise, they will be fined P50,000 per day of illegal operation, the statement said. PNA



## #nationataglance

CENTRAL VISAYAS: CONSOLACION, CEBU

### EMB-7 issues cease order vs Consolacion landfill

THE ENVIRONMENTAL Management Bureau-Central Visayas (EMB-7) has issued a cease and desist order (CDO) against a private sanitary landfill in Barangay Polog, Consolacion town for allegedly violating environmental laws. EMB-7, in a statement, said Asian Energy Systems Corp. was found to have violated the provisions of Presidential Decree 1586 or the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System and Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004. Based on the findings of the inspection conducted by bureau's personnel on April 23 and May 5, the firm failed to implement an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that resulted to a landslide in the area last May 4. The facility has also exceeded the wastewater effluent standards for chemical oxygen demand, ammonia, and total coliform parameters. "With this, they have failed to comply with the Condition 5 of their ECC (Environmental Compliance Certificate) and the regulations of Philippine Clean Water Act," EMB said. Aside from the CDO, the management of the landfill will also be fined with P100,000. EMB-7 said Asian Energy Systems, as part of its commitment in solving the problem, is required to submit a rehabilitation plan in the landslide area. The landfill is also required to immediately stop discharging wastewater and seal all leakages. EMB-7 said it will reinspect the facility to determine compliance. "Asian Energy Systems Corp. is required to observe the CDO or else, they will be fined with P50,000 in every-day of illegal operation," the statement read. — *The Freeman*



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CONSERVATION WORK PAYS OFF

# 528 SEA TURTLES RELEASED IN SARANGANI

MAASIM, SARANGANI—Sea turtle conservation has been successful in Sarangani province, with 528 hatchlings released in this town's waters last week.

Nilo Tamera, regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said the olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) hatchlings came from a hatchery set up in 2015 at Barangay Lumasal here. This batch of hatchlings was deemed to be the largest group returned to the wild here.

Another sea turtle hatchery has been operating in Maitum town for more than a decade.

Tamera urged coastal communities to help conserve the marine ecosystem not only for the sake of the sea turtles, locally called *pawikan*, but also for other marine species as well.

He said waste thrown or washed to the ocean could pose risks to sea turtles, on top of the natural predators that included sharks and other large fish.

### Stranding

Tamera stressed the importance of preserving the province's marine ecosystem. "Let us be responsible [in handling] our respective waste. There have been several reports of stranding of *pawikan*, indicating something is wrong with our coastal environment," he said in a statement.

Edilbrando Paras, caretaker of the hatchery here, said mature sea turtles continued to nest in the town since the creation of the hatchery four years ago.

"Since the beginning of this year, we have been frequently

releasing sea turtle hatchlings to the ocean because of the continued nesting. We expect the releases to go on until July," he told the Inquirer by telephone on Tuesday.

Joy Oloquin, area superintendent of the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS), earlier said they had created an interagency task force to intensify the monitoring and implementation of protection measures within the 211,913-hectare Sarangani Bay.

She said the SBPS Mega-fauna Response Team was formed to address the deaths of marine animals, including turtles, in the area.

SBPS data showed that two sea turtles were found dead on the shores of General Santos City and another in Kiamba town early this month.

### Nesting sites

In the towns of Maasim and Maitum, sea turtle conservation thrives due to the continued awareness campaign by local governments and environment officials.

In this town alone, there are eight known nesting sites that residents help to protect, said Paras, whose family donated the parcel of land where the hatchery had been set up.

Sea turtle species like hawksbill, green turtle and loggerhead also nest in Sarangani.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species classifies the olive ridley, the most common species, as vulnerable, with its population declining. —BONG S. SARMIENTO INQ



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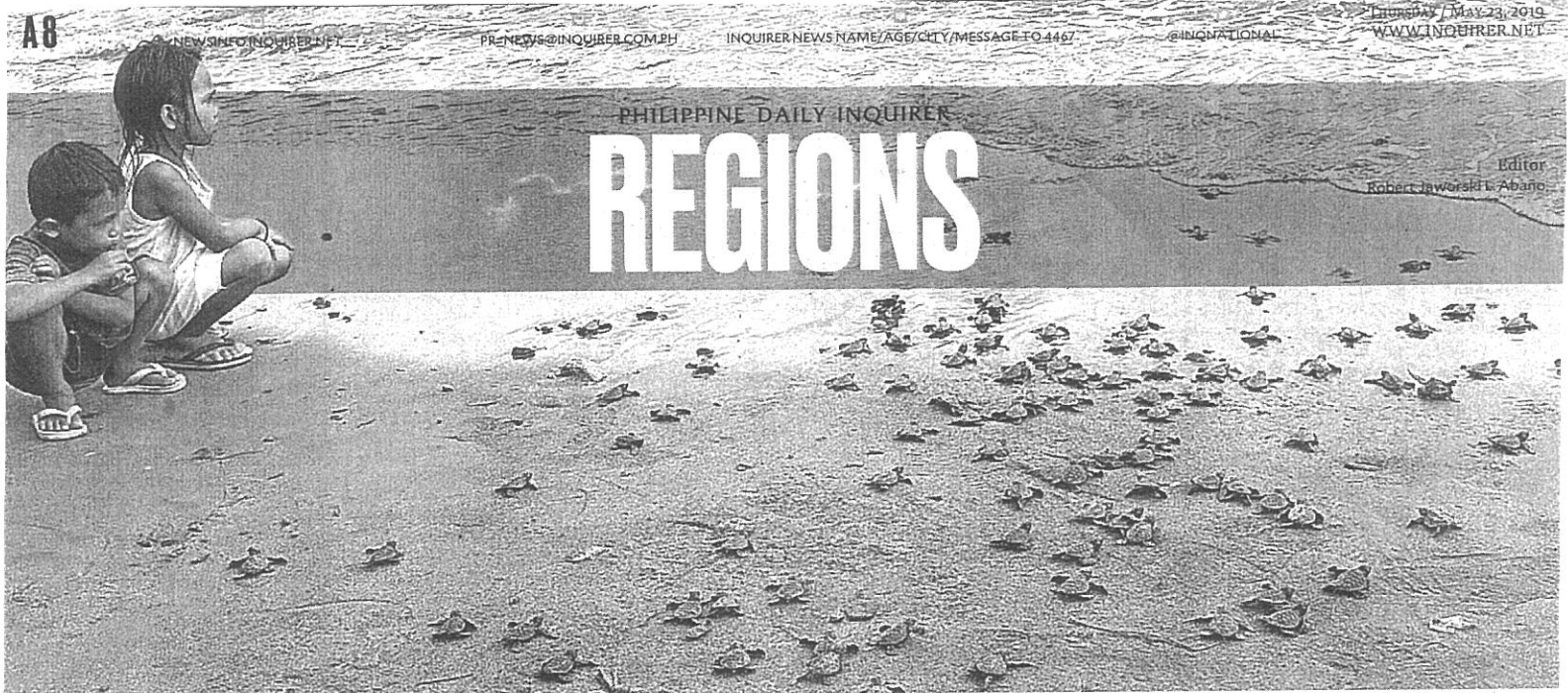
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER  
**REGIONS**

Editor  
Robert Jaworski L. Abano

**OFF THEY GO** Sea turtles nurtured in hatcheries established in Sarangani province are released to the sea. The province has stepped up conservation efforts because its coastline has become a nesting ground for different species of marine turtles or "pawikan." —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# UNDP urges more investments in environmental R&D

**The economic and ecological potential of the Philippines' indigenous plant species remains untapped as a majority of its flora have yet to be discovered and studied, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has said.**

There is huge potential in the country's indigenous plants, with UNDP placing a net present sustainable bioprospecting value of forests here at approximately \$36 million annually.

However, there is a dire need for the government to allocate more funds into environmental research and development to buttress its conservation of native trees and their protection from deforestation.

Biodiversity, when managed effectively, entails significant national economic growth, according to the UNDP. More than half of the coun-

try continues to depend on natural resources for livelihood.

Protecting these natural resources on all fronts – including R&D on native trees for better understanding and appreciation – is thus highly imperative.

Native trees are species naturally found in specific regions. Trees native to a country attract more fauna, including birds and insects. A lot of knowledge on native trees comes from indigenous communities, who use these plants for various purposes including medicinal.

There is, however, a threat to the existence of native trees, as urbanization and rapid deforestation continue despite calls from various environmental groups here and abroad.

A 2011 study by Conservation International placed the Philippines as one of the most threatened forest hotspots in the world, with only seven percent remaining of its original habitat. The country has lost more than 90 percent of its original forest habitat, which is home to more than a thousand endemic species.

Data from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) showed that around 99 plant species are critically endangered, 187 are endangered, 176 are vulnerable and 64 are threatened.

"Most of our natural resources, especially native trees, remain untapped. We have a lot of unknown flora that are lost to rapid deforestation and illegal logging," Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) Philippines project manager Anabelle Plantilla said. "These trees can have properties useful for various industries, yet we are not able to study them because by the time research institutions get funding, the species are wiped out."

According to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Philippines is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, owning two-thirds of the Earth's biodiversity. The country ranks fifth in the world in terms of numbers of plant species, housing five percent of the world's flora.

"Additional funding for research focused on native trees is badly needed. We want to put more importance on the need for more funding directed towards the conservation of our local biodiversity," Plantilla said.

With a P27.14-billion budget for the year, the DENR has allotted at least P6 billion for its flagship forest protection program, the Enhanced National Greening Program. Despite this, the Philippines still lags in terms of environmental research in

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute of Statistics, only 0.1 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) is dedicated to research and development, and an even smaller amount is allotted to research on the environment.

The UNESCO recommends that at least one percent of GDP should go to environmental research and development.

BIOFIN, a project implemented by UNDP across 36 countries to address biodiversity finance gaps, supports this recommendation, as investments in R&D could lead to better management of natural resources, including native trees, which are prone to rapid deforestation.

Restoration is a main action in the forestry sector under the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP), the country's roadmap for biodiversity conservation. Based on the costing done by BIOFIN, the investment need for reforestation in the Philippines is at P57 billion from 2015 to 2028.

Together with coral reef restoration, implementation of green sanitation technology, vulnerability assessment, rehabilitating areas infested with invasive alien species, and mainstreaming of PBSAP into local and national plans, the prospective returns include carbon sequestration worth P453 billion; food security for at least 1.3 million fishers and their families; and reef fisheries, tourism, and willingness to pay for biodiversity associated with coral reefs worth P200 billion a year.

"We should invest in our native trees, in our biodiversity, we have so much yet we take it for granted," Plantilla stressed. "We're missing a lot by not paying attention to our native species and to our forests. If we continue to damage and exploit our natural resources, there will be grave consequences not only to our environment, but also to our economy."



# Angry Duterte orders trash shipped back to Canada at PH's own expense

By DJ Yap  
@deejayapINQ

Outraged by the delay in the return of tons of Canadian trash illegally shipped into the country, President Duterte has taken matters into his own hands by sending the garbage back to Canada at the Philippines' own expense, Malacañang announced on Wednesday.

The President ordered the hiring of a private company to return the trash to Canada—and

to leave the shipment within its waters should Ottawa refuse to accept it, presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said.

"If Canada will not accept [its] trash, we will leave the same within its territorial waters or 12 nautical miles out to sea from the baseline of any of [the] country's shores," Panelo said at a press briefing.

He said Mr. Duterte was "so upset" about Ottawa's delayed action in taking back the trash, which was shipped to Manila in

batches of containers in 2013 and 2014 under false pretenses.

The President, according to Panelo, left instructions to look for a private shipping company that would return the trash to Canada.

### 'We don't mind expenses'

"The government of the Philippines will shoulder all expenses. And we do not mind," Panelo said.

The shipments had been declared by its Philippine con-

signee, Chronic Plastics, as scrap materials for recycling, but turned out to be soiled adult diapers and electronic wastes.

The President earlier gave the Canadian government until May 15 to take back the trash.

When Ottawa failed to comply, Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. recalled the Philippine ambassador and consuls from Canada.

The Canadian government last week expressed disappointment over the move, but said it

remained committed to taking back the trash.

Panelo said Mr. Duterte had lost his patience.

### Gravely insulted

"We are extremely disappointed with Canada's neither-here-nor-there pronouncement on the matter," he said.

"Obviously Canada is not taking this issue nor our country seriously. The Filipino people are gravely insulted about Canada treating this country as

a dumpsite," the official said.

Asked if the President was prepared to cut diplomatic ties with Ottawa, Panelo said: "I think it's going in that direction."

"The President's stance is principled as it is uncompromising: The Philippines, as an independent sovereign nation, must not be treated as trash by other nations," he said.

He added: "We hope this message resonates well with the other countries of the world." INQ





## Duterte orders garbage sent back to Canada

By Nat Mariano and Julito Rada

AN "OUTRAGED" President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the concerned government agencies to shoulder cost of shipping tons of garbage back to Canada, the Palace said Wednesday, adding that the Chief Executive was upset at Ottawa's inordinate delay in retrieving its waste.

In a Palace press briefing, Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said the Duterte administration was "extremely disappointed with Canada's neither here nor there pronouncement on the matter," blaming them

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## Duterte...

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for lacking a definite position on the garbage that was illegally shipped to the Philippines in 2013 and 2014.

"Obviously Canada is not taking this issue nor our country seriously. The Filipino people are gravely insulted about Canada treating this country as a dump site," Panelo said.

"As a result of this offending delay, the President has instructed the appropriate office to look for a private shipping company which will bring back Canada's trash to the latter's jurisdiction. The government of the Philippines will shoulder all expenses. And we do not mind," he added.

Should Canada refuse to accept its tons of rotting rubbish, the Philippine government will then "leave the same within its territorial waters or 12 nautical miles out to sea from the baseline of any of their country's shores."

"The President's stance is principled as it is uncompromising: The Philippines as an independent sovereign nation must not be treated as trash by other foreign nations. We hope this message resonates well with the other countries of the world," he said.

Manila had earlier set a May 15 deadline for Ottawa to take the tons of trash back after President Duterte berated Canada over the issue last month.

Canada has since maintained it was already working to arrange for the containers' return. They missed the deadline set by the Philippines, however.

In the wake of that failure, Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. recalled the Philippine ambassador and consuls in Canada, maintaining that diplomatic presence in Canada will remain diminished until the garbage is shipped back.

The South Korean government, meanwhile, has committed to help ship back to its country its waste materials weighing 5,176 metric tons illegally imported here last year and currently stored at the Phividec Industrial Authority premises in Misamis Oriental.

In his report to Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, Bureau of Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero said the waste materials, consisting of plastic synthetic flakes, were unlawfully imported by the Cebu-based Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp. in July and October last year.



## Rody orders trash shipped back Canada

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte has ordered government agencies to hire a private shipping company to send tons of garbage back to Canada and leave them within its territorial waters if it refuses to accept

the trash, Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo said yesterday.

Panelo, concurrent presidential spokesman, said the President was "upset" and "disappointed" with the delay in Canada's retrieval of the trash.

The Canadian embassy in Manila did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Philippines has made several diplomatic protests to Canada since a 2016 court ruling that the garbage be

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### RODY

returned.

Canada missed a May 15 deadline set by the Philippines to take back the shipment, prompting the Philippines to withdraw its top diplomats from Canada last week.

Canada says the waste, exported to the Philippines between 2013 and 2014, was a commercial transaction not backed by the Canadian government. But Canada has offered to take the rubbish back and the two countries are in the process of arranging the transfer.

Panelo said while there were reports that Canada has tapped a private shipping firm to take back the trash, there has been no pronouncement as to when the garbage would actually be taken back.

Panelo said Canada's continued inaction obviously means it is not taking this issue or the Philippines seriously, and has even gravely insulted Filipinos by treating the country as a dumpsite.

"As a result of this offending delay, the President has instructed the appropriate office to look for a private shipping company which will bring back Canada's trash to the latter's jurisdiction," he said.

"The government of the Philippines will shoulder all expenses. And we do not mind. If Canada will not accept their trash, we will leave the same within its territorial

waters or 12 nautical miles out to sea from the baseline of any of their country's shores," he also said.

Panelo said he is also not sure which agency would oversee the hiring of the private company and how much money would be spent by the government to ship back the garbage. He said the important thing for the government is for the garbage to be taken away.

At least 100 containers of Canadian waste -- consisting of household trash, plastic bottles and bags, newspapers, and used adult diapers -- arrived in the country in batches from 2013 to 2014. The garbage was mis-declared as plastic scraps.

At least 26 containers have been buried in a landfill in Tarlac.

The issue is not the only one to strain ties between the two countries.

Last year, Duterte ordered the military to cancel a \$233 million deal to buy 16 helicopters from Canada, after Ottawa expressed concern they could be used to fight rebels.

### SOUTH KOREAN TRASH

The Department of Finance said the South Korean government has committed to take back its waste exported to Cagayan de Oro last year.

Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero said the 5,176

metric tons of trash consisting of plastic synthetic flakes are stored at the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority premises in Misamis Oriental.

The waste was illegally imported by the Cebu-based Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp. in July and October last year.

"An order of forfeiture and order of re-exportation were issued by the Port of Cagayan de Oro against these waste materials, which arrived here in bulk and containerized shipments," Guerrero said.

"The Korean government has expressed its commitment in collaborating with the Philippine government to execute the repatriation of these materials should Verde Soko fail to follow the notice of repatriation order which it issued, and its willingness to shoulder the shipping cost without the 'arrastre' and demurrage charges," Guerrero added.

Guerrero said a separate shipment of 51x40 container vans of waste materials were loaded on the cargo vessel MV Kalireo last January 13 and left for South Korea the following day.

The remaining 5,176.9 tons of waste materials are still stored at the Verde Soko compound in the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority premises in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental will soon be balled and compacted to prepare it for shipment back to South Korea, Guerrero added. — *With Albert Ruelle Castro*



## Canada taps firm to ship trash back

By **EFREN MONTANO**

**CANADA has tapped a shipping company that would retrieve the illegally exported trash "sooner than later," Malacañang said yesterday.**

Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo issued the remark, citing information from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

"The DFA issued a statement that the Canadian government has al-

ready directed a shipping company to get the trash back. And according to them, it will be sooner than later," Panelo said, adding that he has no information on the shipping date.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. last week ordered the recall of the Philippine ambassador and consuls to Canada following Ottawa's failure to meet President Rodrigo Duterte's May 15 deadline to ship out the 69 container vans of garbage that arrived in the coun-



try in 2013 and 2014.

Panelo said the recall was a warning that Ma-

nila is ready to cut ties with Ottawa over the garbage issue.



# Duterte orders trash sent back to Canada

By EFREN MONTANO

**PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte is sending Canada's trash back a week after the North American country missed the deadline in taking back the garbage exported to the Philippines between 2013 and 2014.**

Presidential Spokesperson Secretary Salvador Panelo said Duterte yesterday ordered government agencies to look for a private company that would ship the trash back to Canada.

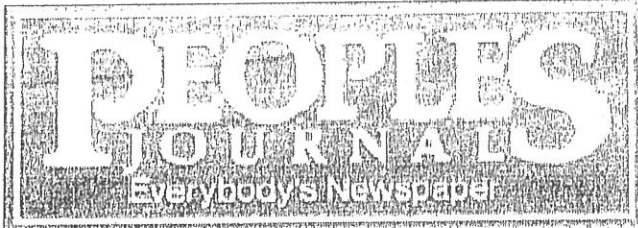
Panelo added that if Canada would not allow its garbage to enter the country, the contracted vessel would leave the containers of solid waste in its territorial waters.



President Duterte



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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# Trash war rages

**PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte is sending Canada's trash back to the North American country a week after it missed the deadline in taking back the garbage exported to the Philippines between 2013 and 2014.**

According to his spokesperson Secretary Salvador Panelo, Duterte yesterday ordered government agencies to look for a private company that would ship the trash back to Canada.

Panelo said that if Canada would not allow its garbage to enter the country, the contracted vessel would leave the containers of solid waste in its territorial waters.



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## Basura ng Canada ibiyahe na! - Digong

Napikon na si Pangulong Duterte sa pagkabigo ng Canadian government na kunin ang kanilang itinambak na basura sa bansa kaya inutos na nito na kumuha ng isang private shipping company upang ibalik sa Canada ang kanilang basura.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo, labis ang

pagkadismaya at galit ng Pangulo sa patuloy na pagkabigong matupad ng Canada ang itinakdang May 15 deadline ng pamahalaan.

"President Rodrigo Duterte is so upset about the inordinate delay of Canada in shipping back its garbage. We are extremely disappointed with Canada's neither here nor there

pronouncements on the matter," wika ni Panelo.

Masyado na raw matagal upang matupad pa ng Canadian government ang kanilang pangako na ibalik nito ang kanilang basura dahil 2013 at 2014 pa ito itinambak sa bansa.

Aniya, papasanin na ng gobyerno ang pagbabayad ng gastos

sa pagkuha ng barko upang maisakay ang tone-toneladang basura pabalik sa Ottawa.

"The Philippines as an independent, sovereign nation should not be treated as trash by other foreign nations. If Canada does not accept the trash, the Philippines will leave it within the waters of the North American country," dagdag ni

Panelo.

Kung hindi tatanggapin ng Canada ang kanilang basura ay itatambak ito sa sakop ng karagatan nito malapit sa kanilang mga shore.

Una ng nagbanta si Pangulong Duterte na baka pagmulan ng "gigera" kung hindi tatanggapin ng Canada ang kanilang mga basura. *(Rudy Andal)*



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## Duterte iniutos na ang pagbiyahe ng tone-toneladang basura pabalik ng Canada

INIHAYAG kahapon ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo ang direktiba ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa kinauukulang ahensya ng gobyerno na ibalik na sa Canada ang kanilang tone-toneladang basura na dumating sa Pilipinas noon pang 2013.

Sa press conference sa Malakanyang, sinabi ni Sec. Panelo na labis ang pagkadismaya at galit ni Pangulong Duterte sa ginagawang delay ng

Canada sa pagkuha ng kanilang mga basura.

Ayon kay Sec. Panelo, hindi naman ginagawa ng Canada ang kanilang mga sinasabi at commitment na kukunin ang mga basura pabalik sa kanilang bansa.

Kaugnay nito, iniutos ni Pangulong Duterte ang paghahanap ng private shipping company na magdadala sa mga basura sa loob ng teritoryo ng Canada.

Kung hindi raw tatang-

gapin ng Canada ang mga basura, iiwan daw ito sa kanilang karagatan o 12 nautical miles mula sa baseline ng alinman sa kanilang baybayin.

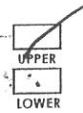
Sasagutin daw ng gobyerno ng Pilipinas ang gagastusin sa nasabing shipment.

Matatandaang, una nang nagbanta si Pangulong Duterte na giyerahin ang Canada kung hindi nila tatanggapin ang kanilang mga basura.

(Vanz Fernandez)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



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## 5-taon basura ng Canada 'itatapon' pabalik ni Duterte

**NAPIKON** na si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kaya gagastusan na ang pagbabalik sa Canada ng mga basura nilang limang taon nang nakatambak sa bansa.

"President Rodrigo Roa Duterte is upset about the inordinate delay of Canada in shipping back its containers of garbage. We are extremely disappointed with Canada's neither here nor there pronouncement on the matter," ayon kay Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo.

Labis aniyang naiinsulto ang sambayanang Filipino sa pagbabalewala ng Canada na kunin ang kanilang basura at pagturing sa bansa bilang dumpsite.

"Obviously Canada is not taking this issue nor our country seriously. The Filipino people are gravely insulted about Canada treating this country as a dumpsite," aniya.

"As a result of this offending delay, the

President has instructed the appropriate office to look for a private shipping company which will bring back Canada's trash to the latter's jurisdiction. The government of the Philippines will shoulder all expenses. And we do not mind," dagdag niya.

Kapag hindi aniya tinanggap ng Canada ang kanilang basura ay iiwanan ito sa kanilang karagatan.

"If Canada will not accept their trash, we will leave the same within its territorial waters or 12 nautical miles out to sea from the baseline of any of their country's shores," sabi ni Panelo.

"The President's stance is principled as it is uncompromising: The Philippines as an independent sovereign nation must not be treated as trash by other foreign nations. We hope this message resonates well with the other countries of the world," giit niya. **(ROSE NOVENARIO)**





SEOUL TO SHOULDER SHIPPING COST

# S. KOREA PROMISES TO TAKE BACK GARBAGE, SAYS FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Illegally imported garbage from South Korea that arrived in Cagayan de Oro City in July and October last year will be returned soon after Seoul promised to shoulder the cost of shipping, the Department of Finance (DOF) said on Wednesday.

According to a report by

Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero to Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, the 5,177 metric tons of Korean waste materials are stored on the premises of Phividec Industrial Authority in Misamis Oriental province.

Guerrero said the containers

of plastic synthetic flakes were "unlawfully imported" by the Cebu-based Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp.

### Order of reexportation

"An order of forfeiture and order of reexportation were issued by the Port of Cagayan de

Oro [on] these waste materials," Guerrero said.

The South Korean government, he said, has "expressed its commitment" to ship back the trash to Seoul and "its willingness to shoulder the shipping cost without the arrastre and demurrage charges." —BEN O. DE VERA INQ



## South Korea promises help in taking back 5,177 MT of garbage shipments

THE South Korean government has committed to help ship back 5,177 metric tons (MT) of plastic garbage that was illegally brought to the Philippines last year.

In a statement from the Department of Finance yesterday, Bureau of Customs (BoC) Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero said in his report to Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III that the South Korean government has expressed its willingness to help repatriate the waste imported by Verde Soko Philippines Industrial Corp.

“The Korean government has expressed its commitment in collaborating with the Philippine government to execute the repatriation of these materials should Verde Soko fail to follow the Notice of Repatriation Order which it issued, and its willingness to shoulder the shipping cost without the arrester and demurrage charges,” Mr. Guerrero said.

Cebu-based Verde Soko illegally imported thousands of tons of plastic waste materials into the country. The cargo is currently

stored at the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority site in Misamis Oriental.

The commissioner said in his report that an order of forfeiture and order of re-expatriation were issued by the Port of Cagayan de Oro (CdO) against the waste materials, which arrived in the country in bulk and containerized shipments.

A separate shipment of 51x40 container vans was loaded on a cargo vessel on Jan. 13 and shipped back to South Korea the following day. The remaining

5,176.9 MT of garbage in Tago-loan, Misamis Oriental will be balled and compacted in preparation for shipment.

“The Port of CdO District Collector informed that PHIVIDEC has already applied for power supply with the Cagayan de Oro Electric Power Light Company in order that the Balling and Compacting Machine, which are already in place, can be used in the compacting and bagging of the waste materials prior to their shipment to Korea,” Mr. Guerrero added.

Both Manila and Seoul are signatories to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, an environmental treaty designed to reduce movements of such shipments between nations.

Apart from the South Korean trash, the Philippines is also bound to return 69 container vans of garbage back to Canada, by a May 15 deadline which Canada has allowed to lapse.

The BoC said despite the country’s preparedness to send back the garbage, the Canadian government might take weeks to process necessary paperwork.

Between 2013 and 2014, a total of 103 container vans of household garbage were shipped to the Philippines in several batches by Canada’s Chronic Plastics, Inc. Thirty-four of the containers have been shipped, while the rest are housed in the Manila International Container Port and the Port of Subic. — **Karl Angelo N. Vidal**



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MEDIUM RARE

## Begin the begin



By **JULLIE YAP DAZA**

**I**F you were Mayor Isko Moreno, where do you begin?

A true-blue Manileno, a genuine Tondo boy who knows the city from the ground up, garbage dumps included, he's got a lot on his plate or, shall we say, in his trash bin. But it's a disservice to connect so much of the "basura" image to Isko. With outgoing Mayor Erap having said his piece and Fred Lim packing for a vacation away from Manila with his family, Isko is lucky that he has a template to follow, sort of. He has President Duterte's cleanup of Boracay and Manila Bay to guide him as soon as he rolls up his sleeves: The key is political will. The City of Manila aches for a cleanup, top to bottom, inside City Hall and all around it. Malate, Quiapo, Sampaloc, Sta. Cruz. Crime. Dirt. Squalor. Traffic caused by stubborn people, not lack of road space. A dying city, as noted by a former mayor of Davao City.

The old charm of the city is gone, lost in the morass of political, moral, social, environmental and aesthetic corruption. I use the word not in a fiscal sense but in its primary sense

of rotting, putrid. A balikbayan could not believe her eyes when we passed through the "palengke" area of the inner city as directed by Ms. Waze one fine day: "Has the city come to this? So ugly."

City Hall to blame, the barangays and their chieftains, residents and transients? I told my friend, Manila is not alone. She nodded, "I know what you mean. But Manila is the capital of the Philippines!"

Remember that, Mayor Isko. Manila is the capital, if that should count for something. While new population centers are rising, branching out to Laguna, Clark, and elsewhere pinpointed by developers with foresight, you may want to consult an urban planner whose abilities you could trust. Incoming Senator Francis Tolentino took a course in urban planning in London (if memory serves). Jun Palafox designed the city of Dubai, whose Emir had the wisdom to plant a million trees to bring down the desert temperatures.

The job of renewing Manila is herculean, like cleaning out the Augean stables and Sisyphus condemned to roll a rock up the mountain as it kept rolling down again. But you asked for it, so let's go!



NEW LAW TO BOOST SUPPLY OF METAL

# TAX-FREE STATUS OF SMALL MINERS' GOLD SALES TO BSP RESTORED

By Daxim L. Lucas  
@daxINQ

Small-scale miners may now sell gold sourced from their mining operations to the central bank tax free after President Duterte enacted a new law meant to boost the dwindling supply of the precious metal held by the government.

In a statement, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said the new law—"An Act to Strengthen the Country's Gross International Reserves"—would cover the sale of gold by small-scale miners to accredited traders for the eventual transfer to the central bank.

"The tax regime under Republic Act No. 11256 would allow the BSP to increase its purchases of domestic gold to further build up

the level of the Philippines' gross international reserves, which serves as the country's primary buffer against external economic shocks," the central bank said.

The law, cleared Congress last March and signed recently by Mr. Duterte, exempts from excise and income tax the sale to the BSP of gold sourced from small-scale mining activities.

The central bank said the new law aimed to remedy the 99-percent drop in BSP's domestic gold purchases from more than 900,000 fine troy ounces (FTO) in 2010 to around 10,000 FTO in 2019 as a result of the taxation of the sale of gold to the central bank beginning July 2011.

"An increase in BSP's gold purchases using pesos leads to a net increase in the

B3

## TAX-FREE STATUS OF SMALL MINERS' GOLD SALES

FROM B1

gross international reserves, thereby improving the country's economic standing and lowering the cost of both funding for the republic as well as doing business for the private sector," it added.

More importantly, the new law will also help prevent the smuggling of Philippine gold through the black market to other countries and allows small-scale miners and traders to sell gold at international market prices.

While the national govern-

ment would forego only about P35 million annually from its income on BSP's gold purchases, the Philippines as a whole is expected to benefit from keeping the gold right in the country for sale to the BSP, the central bank explained. INQ



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## New law gives small-scale miners who sell gold to BSP tax incentives, other perks

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

Small-scale miners who sell gold to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will now enjoy tax incentives and other privileges under a new law signed recently by President Duterte.

Republic Act (RA) No. 11256, signed by the President last March 29, seeks to strengthen the country's Gross International Reserves (GIR) by amending the

National Internal Revenue Code.

Under the new law, registered small-scale miners will be exempted from paying income and excise taxes when they sell their gold to the BSP.

Prior to the enactment of the law, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) imposed a 5-percent withholding tax and a 2-percent excise tax on the sale of gold to the BSP.

"The following items shall ► **11**

## New law gives small...

◀ **11**

not be included in gross income and shall be exempted from taxation under this title," the law read. "(1) The sale of gold to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas by registered small miners as defined under Republic Act No. 7076, and accredited traders; and (2) The sale of gold by registered small-miners to accredited traders for eventual sale to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas," it added.

The same law also stated that the gold sold to the BSP shall also be "exempt from payment of excise tax."

"In addition to the foregoing, and notwithstanding the existing provisions of Republic Act No. 6938, as amended, and the applicable laws, the sale of gold by registered small-scale miners, as defined under Republic Act No. 7076, to accredited traders for eventual sale to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shall enjoy the same tax treatment and privileges given to the direct sale of gold to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas under the Tax Code," the law read.

RA 11256 has also directed the BSP governor, secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, secretary of Interior and Local Government and the commissioner of the BIR to recommend to the Secretary of Finance the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of the Act.

The rules and regulations must include provisions for the registration and accreditation requirements of small-scale miners and traders in order to avail of the tax exemptions under the law.

The law takes effect 15 days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper.

Senator Juan Edgardo Angara, author and sponsor of the bill, had earlier said the gold purchases of the BSP have declined due to the tax requirement imposed by the BIR.

The country's GIR reportedly dropped to a seven-year low at \$74.8 billion in October 2018 from \$5.8 billion in the same month in 2017, according to Angara.



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# BSP to buy more gold from small miners

By LAWRENCE AGCAOILI

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) may further build up its foreign exchange reserves after President Duterte signed a law exempting small-scale miners from paying income and excise taxes when they sell their gold to the central bank.

BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno said in a text message to reporters that the new tax code would allow the central bank to increase its purchases of domestic gold to further build up the country's gross international reserves (GIR).

"Higher GIR would lead to improving the country's economic standing and lowering the costs of borrowing by the government as well as the private sector," Diokno said.

Latest data from the BSP showed the country's GIR level stood at a 30-month high of \$83.95 billion as of end-April, equivalent to 7.4 months' worth of imports of goods and five times the country's short-term external debt.

The GIR serves as buffer to ensure that the Philippines would not run out of foreign exchange that it could use to pay for imported goods and services, or maturing obligations in case of external shocks.

President Duterte signed Republic Act 11256 or An Act to Strengthen the Country's Gross International Reserves (GIR) last March 29, exempting from excise and income tax the sale to the BSP of gold sourced from small-scale mining activities.

Turn to B3

## BSP to... From B1

The measure also covers the sale of gold by small-scale miners to accredited traders for the eventual disposal to the central bank.

As a result of the taxation of the sale of gold by small miners to the BSP last July 2011, Diokno said domestic gold purchases plunged by 99 percent to 10,000 fine troy ounces in 2019 from more than 900,000 fine troy ounces in 2010.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the new law is positive for the government because it is foregoing only less than P. 0 million in annual collection because of very little gold subjected to a very high tax regime.

"Our gold miners will have higher purchasing power so the government stands to gain from the value added taxes on goods consumed by them. Less of the poor gold miners would sink into the income category that the government will have to subsidize through the conditional and non conditional cash transfer," Guinigundo said.

Guinigundo said the BSP worked hard for the last few years and its passage is a strong symbol that the government values the welfare of small scale gold miners who are forced to settle for lower prices for their gold in the black market.

"With the tax, they get even lower return for their gold. It is a win situation for them, it's also a win situation for the BSP which can continue buying gold with peso so that there is additionality in the foreign exchange reserves. If we use dollars to buy gold from the world market, it would simply involve a rebalance of the foreign exchange reserve composition from dollar to gold," Guinigundo said.

Guinigundo said the build up of the country's foreign exchange buffer would be a plus factor to the country's march toward the much-coveted A rating from debt watchers.

S&P Global Ratings and Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR) rate the country's sovereign debt at BBB+ or a notches above minimum investment grade or a notch below the much-coveted A scale.

"With higher and sustained and comfortable import and short term debt coverage, we can be favorably considered both by the market and the credit rating agencies. That should translate into lower borrowing costs for both the government and the corporates," Guinigundo said.

Aside from helping build up the foreign reserves of the country, the BSP said the new law is expected to also lead to greater availability of gold in the domestic markets for jewelry making, dental requirements as well as other industrial and commercial uses.

- With Cristina Mendez



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## Small miners' gold sales tax-exempt

THE Philippines has passed a law exempting gold sales by small-scale miners to the central bank from excise and income taxes to beef up the country's foreign exchange reserves and prevent smuggling, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said on Wednesday.

President Rodrigo Duterte signed the law into effect on March 29, the central bank said in a statement.

By law, all gold produced by small miners in the Philippines should be sold to the central bank at around world market prices. However, miners have circumvented taxes introduced in 2011 by selling gold on the black market.

Gold sold to the central bank fell 99 percent to 10,000 fine troy ounces this year from more than 900,000 fine troy ounces in 2010

because of taxes imposed in 2011, government data showed.

An increase in the country's gross international reserves will improve the country's economic standing and lower the government and the private sector's cost of funding, the central bank said as a reason for the exemption.

This should more than offset the P35 million the government expects to lose annually in foregone revenues from the tax exemptions.

The tax exemption also includes the sale of gold by small-scale miners to accredited traders, which then sell the precious metal to the central bank.

Gold accounted for nearly 10 percent of the country's gross international reserves of \$83.96 billion at end April. — Reuters



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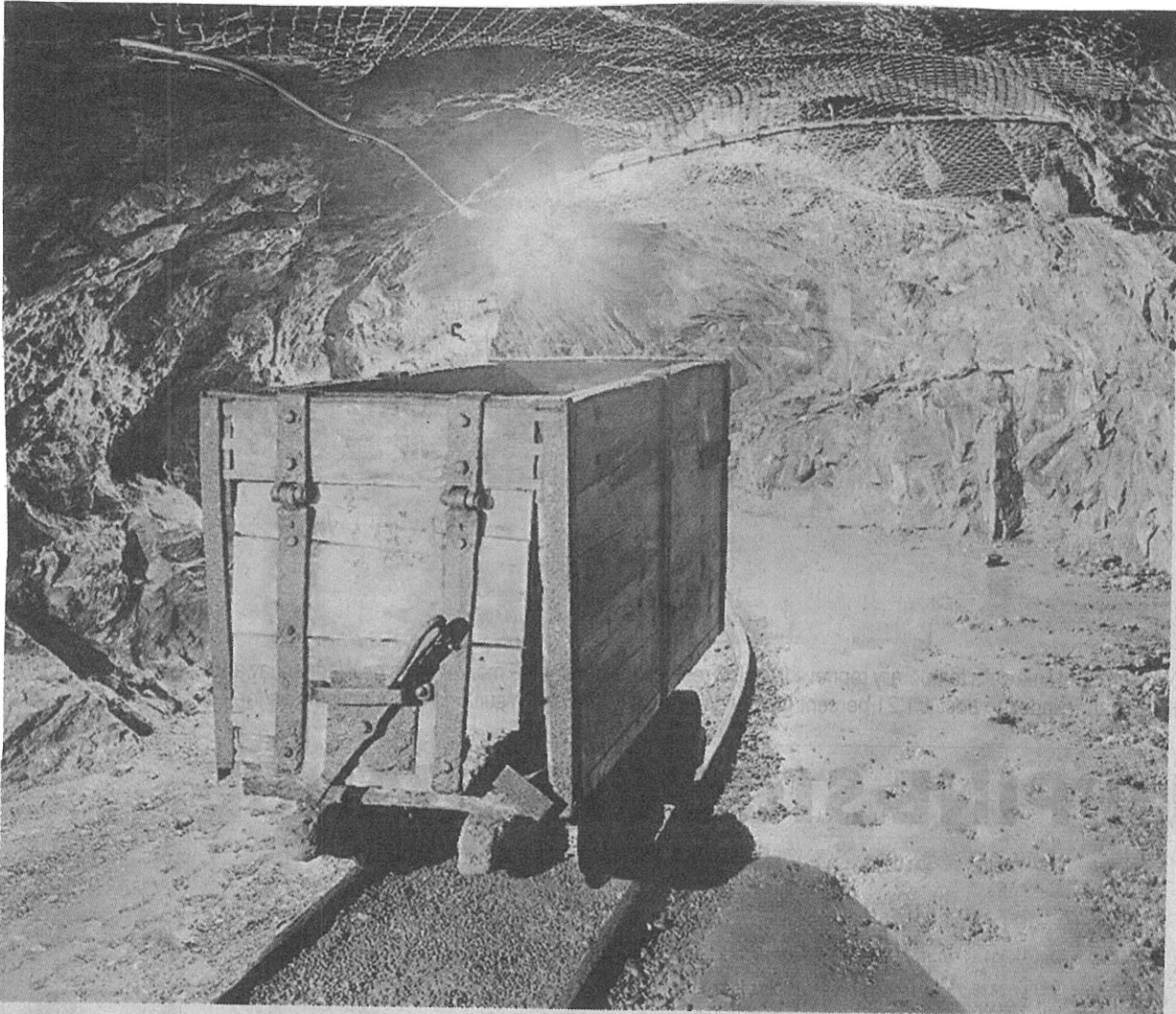
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# Gold Act seen benefiting GIR, miners



BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas officials can now ramp up their gold-buying activities from small-scale miners without having to worry about the excise tax the miner hate so much with the enactment of Republic Act 11256 or the BSP Gold Act. Prior to this piece of legislation, the miners would rather sell their gold to where the taxman was not present.





D-2

Gold Act sun benefitting GIR, miners

**The bill as an 'excellent and much needed law' as it remedies the 99 percent drop in domestic gold purchases**

Top officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) hailed the passing of Republic Act 11256 or the BSP Gold Act they see should further strengthen the country's gross international reserves (GIR) and benefit small-scale gold miners.

Signed on 29 March this year, the law exempts small-scale mining activities from excise and income tax on gold sold to the central bank. The measure also covers the sale of gold by small-scale miners to accredited traders for the eventual disposal to the central bank.

BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno described the bill as an "excellent and much needed law" as it remedies the 99 percent drop in domestic gold purchases. In a text message, Diokno said the tax on gold sales to the BSP was started in July 2011. Consequently, BSP gold purchases plunged from more than 900,000 fine troy ounces (FTO) in 2010 to roughly only 10,000 FTO in 2019.

**It is a win situation for them, it's also a win situation for the BSP which can continue buying gold with pesos so that there is additionality in the foreign exchange reserves.**

"The new tax regime would allow BSP to increase purchases of domestic gold to further build up the country's GIR. Higher GIR would lead to improving the country's economic standing and lower the costs of borrowing by the Republic as well as the private sector," he added.

He also said the new bill will put a damper on the smuggling of Philippine gold in the black market.

Similarly, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa C. Guinigundo welcomed the law as it represents the fruits of their hard work in the past years as well as highlight the role of small-scale miners in the gold market. He said its passage underscores the government's thrust in valuing the welfare of small-scale gold miners who are forced to settle for lower prices in the black market. "It is a win situation for them, it's also a win situation for the BSP which can continue buying gold with pesos so that there is additionality in the foreign exchange reserves," he said in a text message.

He explained the utilization of dollars to purchase gold would spell a rebalance of the FX reserve composition.

The BSP executive said that with "higher and sustained comfortable import and short-term debt coverage," the Philippines can now be considered favorably by market and credit watchers. This would translate to lower borrowing costs for the government.

He explained that since a limited amount of gold will be subjected to high taxes, the government will forego almost P30 million in its annual collections. He stressed, however, that the final outcome should still be positive for the government.

"Our gold miners will have a higher purchasing power so the government stands to gain from the value added taxes on goods consumed by them," he pointed out.



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# The Manila Times

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## Small gold miners to enjoy tax perks

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has signed into law a bill that seeks to strengthen the country's gross international reserves (GIR) by offering tax incentives to local small-scale miners, a move welcomed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

Signed on March 29 but revealed to the media only on Wednesday, Republic Act (RA) 11256 amended the National Internal Revenue Code to exempt from taxation income from gold sold by these miners directly to the BSP.

Small-scale miners who sold gold to accredited traders for eventual sale to the central bank would also enjoy the same exemptions, as the commodity is presumed to have been bought from them.

The law also said that if these miners paid the excise tax for the gold before its sale to the Bangko

Sentral, they could file for a refund or credit for it.

RA 11256 also gives the central bank governor; the heads of the Environment and Interior departments; and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) chief 60 days from the effectivity of the law to recommend to the Finance secretary the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) its for promulgation.

The IRR must include provisions for the registration and accreditation requirements of small-scale miners and traders in order to avail themselves of the exemptions.

One of the bill's authors, Sen. Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara, had cited studies in saying that between 2005 and 2010, the BSP purchased nearly 1,000,000 troy ounces of gold or 2,362 gold bars that came from small-scale mining.

► Gold B4

### ■ GOLD FROM B1

## Small gold

These purchases, however, declined to 35,000 troy ounces in 2012 after BIR imposed the tax requirement in 2011, according to him. That figure further slid to 14,700 troy ounces in 2017.

As of September last year, the BSP had only purchased 7,600 troy ounces, or an equivalent of 19 gold bars, Angara said.

The reduction, he added, had constrained the central bank from increasing the country's GIR level, which ended 2018 at P79.193 billion.

The GIR is a measure of a country's ability to settle import payments and service foreign debt.

### 'Excellent, much-needed'

Also on Wednesday, BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno said in a message to report-

ers that RA 11256 was an "excellent and much-needed" measure.

"The new tax regime would allow [the] BSP to increase its purchases of domestic gold to further build up the country's GIR," he explained.

According to BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo, the new law would allow the central bank to continue buying gold with peso instead of tapping the country's dollar reserves.

"If we use dollars to buy gold from the world market, it would simply involve a rebalance of the FX (foreign exchange) reserve composition from dollar to gold," Guinigundo explained in a separate message.

Lastly, the BSP officials said RA 11256 would prevent the smuggling of Philippine gold through the black market to other countries and allow small-scale miners and traders to sell gold at international market prices.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE  
AND MAYVELIN U. CARABALLO



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# Manila Water operates more deepwells to augment supply for customers

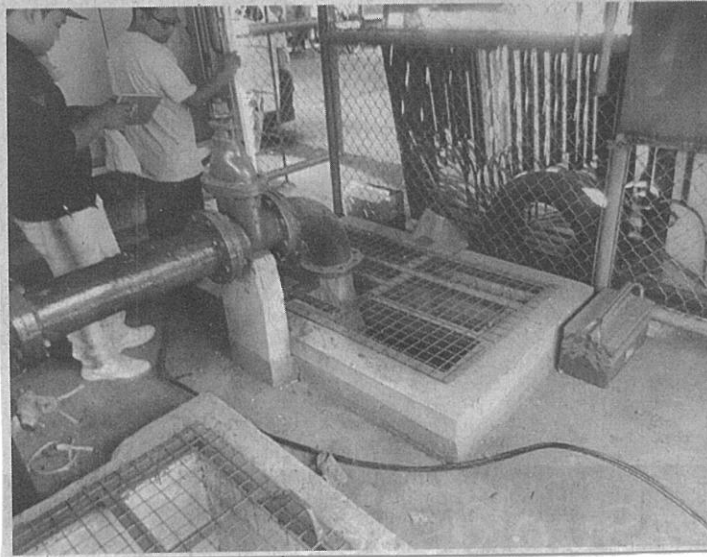
Manila Water has recently started operating an additional 26 deepwells in its concession area. As of May 20, 2019, more than 34 million liters of water per day (MLD) have been drawn from these deepwells and is seen to bring more water supply upon full operation of more deepwells in the coming months.

Before the activation of the new deepwells, Manila Water is able to source more than 9 MLD from five (5) deepwells located in Curayao, Rodriguez. On top of this, deepwells from the Province of Rizal now collectively yield an additional 25 MLD. There are now nineteen (19) additional deep wells in operation in the Prov-

ince of Rizal, nine (9) of which are in Antipolo City.

The current demand of Manila Water customers is about 150 MLD in excess of the available supply from its allocation of 1600 million liters from Angat Dam. To narrow the supply deficit, various sources have been identified to augment supply. Aside from the deepwells, additional supply is coming from the Cardona Water Treatment Plant which now delivers 50-56 MLD while cross-border flows now provide 18.81 MLD. As of May 20, water availability has already reached 99% of East Zone customers receiving 8 hours or more of water service with 7 psi (pound per square inch) of pressure,

reaching up to the ground floor, which is compliant with the regulatory standards as set in the Concession Agreement. However, despite these augmentation sources, there is still a supply deficit of about 50 MLD due to higher summer demand and soaring temperature.



←  
Manila Water is now operating 19 additional deepwells in the province of Rizal, yielding 25 million liters of water per day (MLD) to help augment the limited supply for Metro Manila's East Zone. One of these operational wells is in Masangkay St., Antipolo City (shown in photo), which yields 2.4 MLD.



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## Remote Surigao households get access to clean water

Dayjo, a *carinderia* owner, was close to shutting down her small business due to unstable water supply, in the process risking the jobs of her staff, the schooling of her children, and the daily needs of her family.

Like Dayjo, residents of Cagwait municipality in Surigao del Sur would struggle to get clean water for their households especially during the dry season. Unfortunately, the local water concessionaire could not deliver enough water to the community, so residents had to collect rainwater, treat murky water from artesian wells, and carry buckets of water into their homes every day for their daily water needs.

Cagwait, an agriculture-based community, relies heavily on water. The municipality produces rice, coconut, corn and other cash crops, and vegetables. The water needs of the agricultural and other economic ac-

tivities of the municipality are served by the local utility, Aras-asan/Unidad Rural Waterworks & Sanitation Association Inc. AURWSA in turn sources the water from Tambacan Creek and Tabon-tabon Creek, which have a combined capacity of only 315 cubic meters – inadequate to serve the needs of Cagwait's two barangays.

The Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF), together with the Coca-Cola Foundation, started to work with AURWSA in 2007 to develop another water source by the Camuning Creek, a body of water upstream of the Tambacan creek to stabilize Cagwait's water supply and expand their services to another community, Barangay Tubo-Tubo, which covers more than 500 households. PEF also helped AURWSA repair and build additional infrastructure to the water system, including a mini dam, filtration box, transmission and distribution water pipes, main

meter, valves, chlorinator and water tanks. AURWSA's new water system can now serve the needs of the community for another 10 years.

Apart from upgrading the communities' waterworks, PEF provided installation and training for billing and accounting systems, entrepreneurship management, and water quality management to AURWSA's management and personnel.

With an improved water system, AURWSA has taken the additional step of conserving the watershed. They have held regular activities that center on forest-farming, protecting the existing vegetation, and mitigating the effects of human activity in the watershed.

With the help of PEF, at least 3,000 residents from barangays Aras-asan, Unidad and Tubo-Tubo are now assured of a safe, stable and clean water source for their homes and enterprises for the next decade.



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## Sending out an environmental

# S.O.S.

Text by **JOHANNES L. CHUA**

**T**here can be no excuse why we will not save our waters – oceans, rivers, lakes, beaches, etc. Like air or land, water is a source of life not only to humans but to a host of sea creatures, plants and organisms.

To survive, we need healthy waters such as our ocean.

The ocean, according to the Marine Conservation Institute, is “the largest ecosystem on Earth, it is the planet’s life support system. Oceans generate half of the oxygen we breathe and, at any given moment, they contain more than 97 percent of the world’s water.”

It added that oceans provide at least a sixth of the animal protein people eat. More importantly, “living oceans absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and reduce climate change impacts. The diversity and productivity of the world’s oceans is a vital interest for humankind. Our security, our economy, our very

survival all require healthy oceans.”

But the health of our oceans, seas, rivers, down to the lakes and beaches, is at risk. From whom? Well, from you and me if we are irresponsible human beings.

Single-use straws end up in the mouths of sea turtles. Discarded garbage bags left at the beachfront can find its way to the sea, hampering the freedom of movement for some sea creatures. Until now, there are still people bringing Styrofoam packs for their beach outing, casually throwing it away in the sand after food has been consumed.

One does not have to donate a huge amount of money or to take so much effort to save our water system. One can start in small ways – such as refusing a single-use straw or supporting a resort that implements sustainable practices – to make sure that the health of our oceans, seas and rivers will not be in peril.

‘The health of our oceans, seas, rivers, down to the lakes and beaches, is at risk. From whom? Well, from you and me if we are irresponsible human beings. Single-use straws end up in the mouths of sea turtles. Discarded garbage bags left at the beachfront can find its way to the sea, hampering the freedom of movement for some sea creatures.’



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1880

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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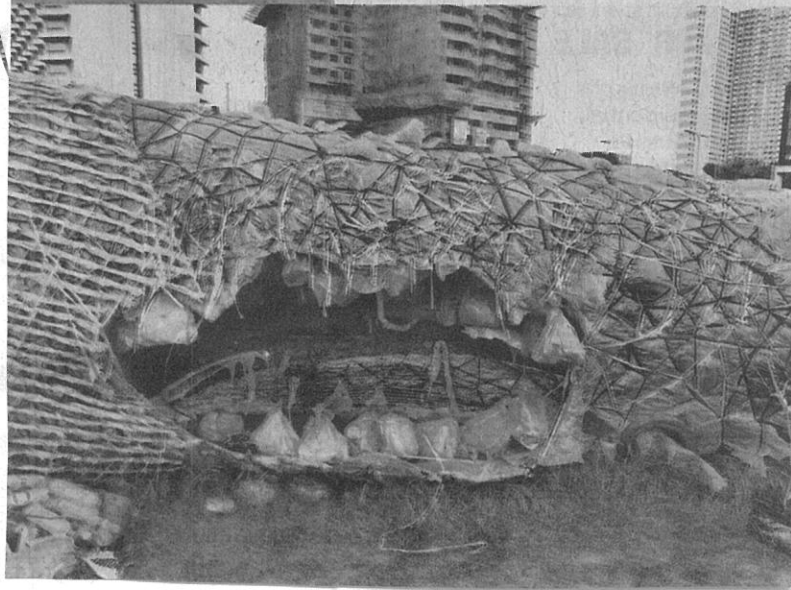
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Go Green, send us an email:  
EnvironmentMB@gmail.com

## Gigantic woes

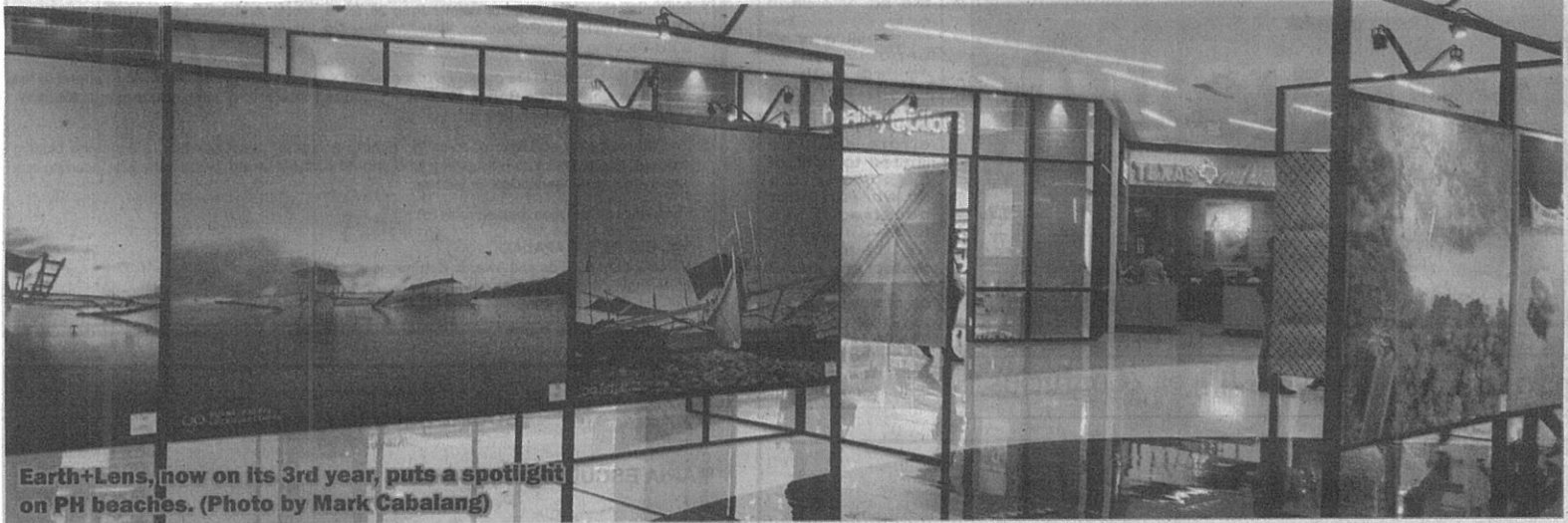
Spread in the front lawn of the CCP for almost a month is a 78-foot 'decomposing' whale – a large-scale art installation created from bottles, straws, garbage bags, etc. warning about the ill effects of single-use plastic to the environment. Created by Biboy Royong, 'Cry of the Dead Whale' created waves in social media as it included a 'dead' baby whale (photo below) inside its belly. After this eye-opener, what now? (Photos by Mark Cabalang)



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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



Earth+Lens, now on its 3rd year, puts a spotlight on PH beaches. (Photo by Mark Cabalang)

## SAVING OUR BEACHES

*Earth+Lens photo exhibit  
at S Maison until May 27*

Home to the most picturesque sceneries nature has to offer, the Philippines is definitely on the list of places to experience an extraordinary summer. With islands surrounded by crystal clear waters, tourists can experience a rich and diverse marine life and indulge in world-renowned beaches with pristine, fine sand.

Search anything about the Philippines' best beaches and one will most likely come across more than a hundred of listicles, each highlighting different group of islands. It's a clear indication that there isn't a beach in the Philippines that one can call 'mainstream' because a country with around 7,641 islands surely has endless destinations to choose from.

One of the most talked about programs of DOT on sustainable tourism is the closure of the world-famous Boracay which underwent a six-month rehabilitation. Other than cleaning the island, this move paved the way for tourists to discover other

local beaches that are just as beautiful.

In support to the government's efforts to promote ecotourism, the Manila Bulletin's Picture Perfect section and Going Places Magazine, in partnership with DOT and smartphone brand Huawei, have launched the Earth+Lens 2019 photo exhibit.

The exhibit is currently ongoing until May 27 in the lobby of S Maison at the Mall of Asia complex.

Now on its third year, the Earth+Lens photo exhibit makes use of technology to spread the message of appreciating and preserving the marvelous beaches that our country has to offer.

Through Huawei's dual camera system equipped on its advanced smartphone models, the wonders of our country's unique attractions are immortalized.

As support to the eco-friendly aspect of the advocacy, the photo exhibit made use of sustainable materials.



Earth+Lens puts a focus on the importance of saving our beaches. Photo shows a beach in Jomalig Island, Quezon. (Photo by Johnald Atentar)



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# Pinoy rate high in care for environment

By RAINIER ALLAN RONDA

Filipinos score high among other nationalities when it comes to caring for the environment, a 2010 survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) found in a poll it conducted as part of a network of national survey organizations to determine caring for the environment around the globe.

Social scientist and academician Mahar Mangahas, in a presentation on "Attitudes of Filipinos on Care for the Environment: Where do we Stand?" at the Trailblazers in Science public forum of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) at the Hotel Jen in Pasay City last week, said that Filipinos have as much concern for the environment as most other peoples of the world, even scoring higher (48 percent) than average (40 percent).

However, he said that Filipinos pri-

oritize their country's environmental problems in a "somewhat different order than other peoples of the world."

Mangahas, a member of the NAST Social Sciences Division, identified the priority areas as air pollution, climate change, using up national resources, domestic waste disposal, water shortage, water pollution, nuclear waste, chemicals and pesticides and genetically modified foods.

He said that Filipinos' top environmental concern was air pollution (24 percent), climate change (17 percent), using up natural resources (16 percent), domestic waste disposal (14 percent) and water shortage (11 percent).

In the average percentage for the 32 other countries, the top concerns were air pollution (22 percent), climate change (15 percent), water pollution (12 percent), using up natural resources (11 percent), and chemicals

and pesticides (10 percent).

Mangahas said Filipinos also showed high confidence in modern science and its ability to solve the world's environmental problems with little changes in their lifestyles.

While they cared much for the environment, Filipinos however think that environment was getting too much attention compared to economic problems. He said other nationalities believe attention to the environment was only appropriate.

Filipinos strongly feel (+41 percent) that human progress is achievable without harming the environment while other nationalities are divided on this statement (-3 percent).

Also, Filipinos were found to agree more strongly than other nationalities (+70 percent vs. 34 percent) that economic growth was necessary to allow people to engage in environmental

protection activities.

Mangahas said the survey was done by the SWS as a member of the International Social Survey Program (ISSP), a consortium of national survey organizations in 42 countries that jointly survey an agreed topic each year.

"This is an activity where we in the SWS have been involved with for 20 years now," Mangahas said.

Mangahas said that for social scientists, the data gathered by the ISSP surveys were one of the most important sources of primary data for cross-national comparisons.

He said the SWS has conducted 28 ISSP surveys since 1991. The ISSP survey on the environment was last done in 2010, and the next one will be done in 2020.

Before the 2010 ISSP survey on the environment, there was one done 2000.





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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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## Protecting the critically endangered pawikans starts at school.

With your help, grade school students will have the opportunity to join **PawiCAMP**, our way of offering schoolchildren and their guardians a chance to learn more about building a sustainable community for the conservation of our sea turtles.

Help us inspire love for the environment in our children.  
Find out more about PawiCAMP by visiting <http://bit.ly/KinderPawiCAMP>.

With **KINDER**, we at the Aboitiz Foundation help you find limitless ways of doing good by letting you choose social causes that are close to your heart.



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# The Manila Times

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Strategic Communication Initiatives Service

## Guardian drops 'climate change' from its stories; countries say 'no' to climate policies

### First word

**I**NTERRUPT today my commentaries on the term limits controversy to draw attention to three significant reports on the climate change debate. There are signs that the wheel is turning against the climate alarmists.

These developments are:

1. The decision by the *Guardian*, the liberal British newspaper, to no longer use "climate change" in its stories. It told its staff to use "climate crisis" instead.

2. An analysis and commentary in the *Washington Examiner* reported that around the world, there is a backlash against climate change policies. Climate change politicians are being rejected at the ballot box.

3. In an editorial, the *Washington Times* declared: "Until climatologists have a full understanding of the natural forces shaping the planet's climate, extravagant blueprints for radical change should remain on the drawing board."

What is happening?

The climate change movement is taking a whipping.

Even Green New Deal sponsor US congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez has changed her



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MAKABENTA

tune. She now says she was only joking when she said the world would end in 12 years if climate change is not stopped.

### Guardian drops 'climate change'

The story on the *Guardian* was published first in the *World Net Daily* (WND). The report said:

"The *Guardian* newspaper of London will no longer refer to 'climate change' in its stories.

"No, the iconic, left-leaning broadsheet hasn't become a convert to climate skepticism.

"Instead, the paper is upping the ante, directing its staff to use the terms 'climate emergency' and 'climate crisis,' the *Washington Examiner* reported.

"An internal email argued the term 'climate change' sounds 'rather passive and gentle when what scientists are talking about is

a catastrophe for humanity.'

"In fact, 'climate skeptic' also is not an acceptable term. Instead, the paper will refer to scientists and others who cite evidence that mankind is not causing catastrophic climate change as 'climate deniers' or 'climate science deniers.'

"Also, staff is instructed to use the term 'global heating' instead of 'global warming.'

"The *Examiner* also reported that the Associated Press Stylebook, the industry standard, has told its staff to avoid the use of 'skeptics' or 'deniers' to describe 'those who don't accept climate science or dispute the world is warming from man-made forces.'

"Use 'climate change doubters' or 'those who reject mainstream climate science,' the AP says. 'Avoid use of skeptics or deniers.'"

### Countries reject climate policies

In his analysis in the *Washington Examiner* on May 18, 2019, H. Sterling Burnett, PhD., wrote that "around the world, there is a backlash against expensive climate change policies."

I reprint Burnett's analysis in full here because of its compelling information.

"From Alberta to Australia, from Finland to France, and beyond, voters are increasingly showing their displeasure with expensive energy policies imposed by politicians in an inane effort to purportedly fight human-caused climate change..."

"This is what originally prompted protesters in France to don yellow vests and take to the streets in 2018. They were protesting scheduled increases in fuel taxes, electricity prices, and stricter vehicle emissions controls, which French President Emmanuel Macron had claimed were necessary to meet the country's greenhouse gas reduction commitments under the Paris climate agreement. After the first four weeks of protest, Macron's government canceled the climate action plan.

"Also in 2018, in part as a reaction against Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's climate policies, global warming skeptic Doug Ford was elected as premier of Ontario, Canada's most populous province.

"In August 2018, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull was

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## Guardian

forced to resign over carbon dioxide restrictions he had planned to meet the country's Paris climate commitments. His successor announced that new goals of reducing energy prices and improving reliability, not fighting climate change, would be the government's priority going forward.

"But 2018 was just a prelude for the political climate revolt to come.

"In mid-March, the Forum for Democracy (FvD), a fledgling political party just three years old, tied for the largest number of seats, 12, in the divided Dutch Senate in the 2019 elections. FvD takes a decidedly skeptical stance on climate change...

"In Finland, climate change poli-

cies became the dominant issue in the April 14 election, as support for climate skepticism suddenly surged. While all the other parties proposed plans to raise energy prices and limit energy use, when all the votes had been counted, the Finns Party, which made the fight against expensive climate policies the central part of its platform, came out the big winner with the second-highest number of seats in parliament...

"In Alberta, where the economy declined after Prime Minister Trudeau's climate policies were enacted, voters on April 16 threw out the reigning Premier Rachel Notley and her New Democratic Party, which supported federal climate policies...

"As daily headlines become ever more shrill, hyping climate fears

based on projections made by unverified climate models, the international public is becoming increasingly wary of the Chicken Little claims of impending climate doom. Voters in developed countries are saying 'enough is enough.'"

### Second thoughts on climate doom

In its lead editorial on May 15, 2019, the *Washington Times* wrote:

"Climate change, which is weather over a lengthy period of time, is now on the world's to-do list. What is done about it is of crucial importance because the price of altering the long-term weather of the entire planet could be higher than the stratosphere. Until uncertainties are



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GUARDIAN

resolved that make the contemporary study of climate more science than art, America should take a rain check on a revolution driven by neither art nor science, but fear.

"In recognition of scientific uncertainty, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is trying to reduce inaccuracies in the methods participating nations use in calculating greenhouse gas emissions. The organization's task force on greenhouse gas inventories this week concluded its 49th annual meeting in Kyoto, Japan, intended to update methods put in place in 2006 for tracking emissions...

"Accurately estimating emissions across a nation is fraught with difficulty; errors in estimates multiplied across the globe could account for squirrely climate-

change conclusions....

"The conclusions of a new study, published by the scientific journal *Paleoceanography and Paleoclimatology*, contribute fresh doubt to the idea that atmospheric carbon dioxide and global temperatures rise and fall in unison...

"Forecasting Earth's climate patterns is apparently more complicated than simply measuring greenhouse gas levels. Without grasping all variables affecting climate, efforts to predict temperature trends are faulty, and hence unreliable.

"The UN climate panel's attempts to refine the precision of its methods for estimating nations' greenhouse gases are expected to result in more reliable temperature estimates...

"In Washington, global-warm-

ing prophets don't want to wait for a clear picture of the world's temperature patterns before pushing extravagant government programs that are supposed to limit greenhouse gases and slow the predicted rise in global temperatures...

"Americans know better than to bet the farm on twisting weather vanes and befuddled politicians...

Until climatologists have a full understanding of the natural forces shaping the planet's climate, extravagant blueprints for radical change should remain on the drawing board."

What does UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres have to say in response to these developments? Another warning of climate catastrophe?

yenmakabenta@yahoo.com



23 MAY 2019

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## PAG-IINIT NG MUNDO

Ang pag-iinit ng mundo o global warming ang dahilan ng pagtaas ng tubig.

Ang mga bundok ng ice o yelo sa Greenland na karugtong ng bansang Denmark at pinakadulo ng mundo sa norte ay mabilis umanong natutunaw dahil sa pag-iinit ng mundo.

Ganito rin umano ang nagaganap sa Antarctica na nasa dulong bahagi ng hilaga o south ng mundo at malapit sa Australia.

Ang kontinenteng Antarctica na 98 posyentong yelo na may kapal na katamtamang 2 kilometo ay mabilis na rin umano ng natutunawan ng yelo.

Kapag nagsama ang natutunaw na yelo sa Greenland at Antarctica, dito na magkakaroon ng pandaigdigang baha na aabot sa 1-2 metro mula ngayon hanggang 2100 o sa loob ng 80 taon.