

10 JUN 2019

DATE : \_\_\_\_\_

DAY : Monday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**



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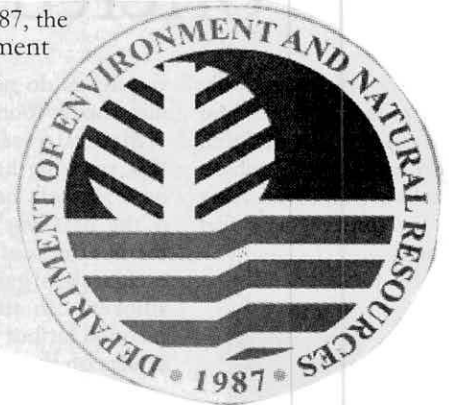
DATE

# Working for a self-sustaining environment

CARING for the environment and Mother Earth's bounty is an essential part of every government's concerns. It is a major commitment that a nation and its citizens have to make to ensure that the promise of the future remains attainable for future generations. This is such that a necessary body is established that will ensure that the Filipino never loses hope for the development of a self-sustaining environment, mindful of people's rights to a life of dignity.

As provided for under Section 4 of Ex-

ecutive Order 192 issued on June 10, 1987, the DENR, became the primary government agency responsible for the conservation, management, development and optimum use of the natural resources as well as the protection and development of a sustainable environmental management, including those in reservations, watershed areas and lands of the public domain, as well as the licensing and regulation of all natural resources



utilization as may be provided by law in order to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits derived therefrom for the welfare of the present and future generations of Filipinos.

The DENR's mission is to be the dynamic force behind people's initiatives in the protection, conservation, development and management of the environment through strategic alliances and partnerships, participate in processes, relevant policies and programs and appropriate information technology towards sustainable development.

To accomplish the department's mandate, the following objectives serve as basis for policy formulation: Assure the availability and sustainability of the country's natural resources through their judicious use and systematic restoration or replacement, whenever possible; Increase the productivity of natural resources in order to meet the demands for forest, mineral and land resources of a growing population in a manner consistent with environmental protection and enhancement; Enhance the contribution of natural resources for achieving national economic, political, social development and ecological integrity.

The DENR is tasked to promote equitable access to natural resources by the different sectors of the populations; maintain a desirable level of environmental quality; Conserve specific terrestrial and marine areas representative of the Philippine natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations.

#### Powers

The powers and functions of the DENR, per Section 5 of E.O. 192 include the following: to advise the President on the enactment of laws relative to the development, use, regulation and conservation of the country's natural resources and the control of pollution; to formulate, implement and supervise the government's policies, plans and programs pertaining to the management, conservation, development, use and replenishment of the country's natural resources.

The DENR is tasked to promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with law governing the exploration, development, conser-

vation, extraction, disposition, use and such other commercial activities tending to cause the depletion and degradation of our natural resources; to exercise supervision and control over forest lands, alienable and disposable lands, and mineral resources and impose appropriate payments, fees, charges, rentals and any such form of levy and collect such revenues for the exploration, development, utilization or gathering of such resources; to undertake exploration, assessment, classification and inventory of the country's natural resources using ground surveys, remote sensing and complementary technologies;

Also part of DENR's functions are: to promote proper and mutual consultation with the private sector involving natural resources development, use and conservation; to undertake geological surveys of the whole country including its territorial waters.

The DENR is tasked, among others, to establish policies and implement programs for the: accelerated inventory, surveys and classification of lands, forest and mineral resources using appropriate technology, to be able to come up with a more accurate assessment of resource quality and quantity; equitable distribution of natural resources through the judicious administration, regulation, utilization, development and expansion of natural resource-based industries; promotion, development and expansion of natural resource-based industries; preservation of cultural and natural heritage through wildlife conservation and segregation of national parks and other protected areas; maintenance of a wholesome natural environment by enforcing environmental protections laws; and encouragement of greater people's participation and private initiative in natural resource management.

To promulgate rules and regulations, it is necessary for the DENR to: accelerate cadastral and emancipation patent surveys, land use planning and public land titling; harness forest resources in a sustainable manner, to assist rural development, support forest-based industries, and provide raw materials to meet increasing demands, at the same time keeping adequate reserves for environmental stability; and expedite mineral resources surveys, promote the production of metallic and non-metallic minerals and encourage mineral marketing.



## THE PHILIPPINE EAGLE

# National Symbol, Global Treasure

THE yearly observance of the Philippine Eagle Week (PEW) made possible through Presidential Proclamation No. 79 series of 1999 invites the nation to come together and celebrate the life of our national bird, the magnificent Philippine eagle. With the theme "The Philippine eagle: A National symbol, A Global treasure" this year's PEW highlights that the Philippine eagle, while endemic to the Philippines is a global heritage that requires the concerted efforts of the international community for its conservation, such that if we lose this bird, the whole world loses.

Celebrating the 21<sup>st</sup> year of the PEW, the country sent a pair of captive-bred Philippine eagles to Singapore on June 4 as ambassadors of Philippine biodiversity. The pair of Philippine eagles *Geothermice* (male 15 y/o) and *Sambisig* (female, 17 y/o) were flown from the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City to their new home at the Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS)-Jurong Bird Park. Through a Wildlife Loan Agreement (WLA) between the DENR and WRS, the eagles are expected to generate global awareness on the urgent need for their conservation and to stimulate international support for *in-situ* conservation in the country.

The milestone, a first of its kind, in our conservation efforts for this critically endangered (CR) raptor, considered as the crown jewel of Philippine bio-diversity, brings the Philippine eagle closer to the international community in the hopes of encouraging international attention and support for its conservation.

With experts placing the population of the Philippine eagle at less than 400 pairs in the wild which resulted from habitat loss and hunting, the loaning of these iconic birds comes at a most opportune time. Considering the threat of the avian flu, the opportunity to send *Geothermice* and *Sambisig* overseas for conservation breeding and public education is also a biosecurity measure to ensure the presence of a fall back population in case of extreme natural calamities.

The WLA between the DENR and WRS shall also promote and coordinate staff exchanges for training and capability building in the areas of animal husbandry, veterinary management, animal welfare, designs, zoo education, and marketing. The WRS has also committed to support the DENR's programs on Philippine eagle conservation including reintroduction of any offspring from the loaned eagles.

The signing of the WLA on 20 May 2019 coincided with the 50<sup>th</sup> year celebration of the Philippines-Singapore Friendship Day. DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu and Dr. Cheng Wen-Haur, Deputy CEO and Chief Life Sciences Officer of the WRS signed the historic document with the Ambassador of Singapore to the Philippines, H.E. Gerard Ho Wei Hong and Philippine Ambassador to Singapore, H.E. Joseph del Mar Yap as witnesses, and before DENR Officials, the Philippine Eagle Foundation and the media.

*Geothermice* and *Sambisig* will be transported to Singapore on 04 June 2019 which also marks the commencement of the celebration for the Philippine Eagle Week.



Sealing the deal with a firm handshake between DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu and Dr. Cheng Wen-Haur, Deputy CEO and Chief Life Sciences Officer of the Wildlife Reserves Singapore. (DENR)





## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

# 'Raise Your Voice, Not the Sea Level'

THE DENR joined the global celebration of World Environment Day last June 5 and the Philippine Environment Month this June.

This year's theme "Raise Your Voice, Not the Sea Level," recognizes the remarkable resilience of small islands to climate change.

The United Nations Environment Program say, "Small islands contribute little to the problem of climate change yet they are especially vulnerable to the changing climate."

This year's observance of the World Environment Day and the Philippine Environment Month is therefore geared towards increasing climate change awareness and an understanding of environmental preservation.

To mark these events, DENR Region 8 in partnership with the Philippine Information Agency had a simultaneous launching of Climate Change Advocacy Campaign with a distinct theme of "Nagbabago na ang Panahon, Panahon na para Magbago." The program was followed by a mangrove tree planting at a Mangrove Rehabilitation Project Site where around 1,000 participants from various sectors including national government

agencies, non-government organizations, private sector, media, and the academe were expected to join.

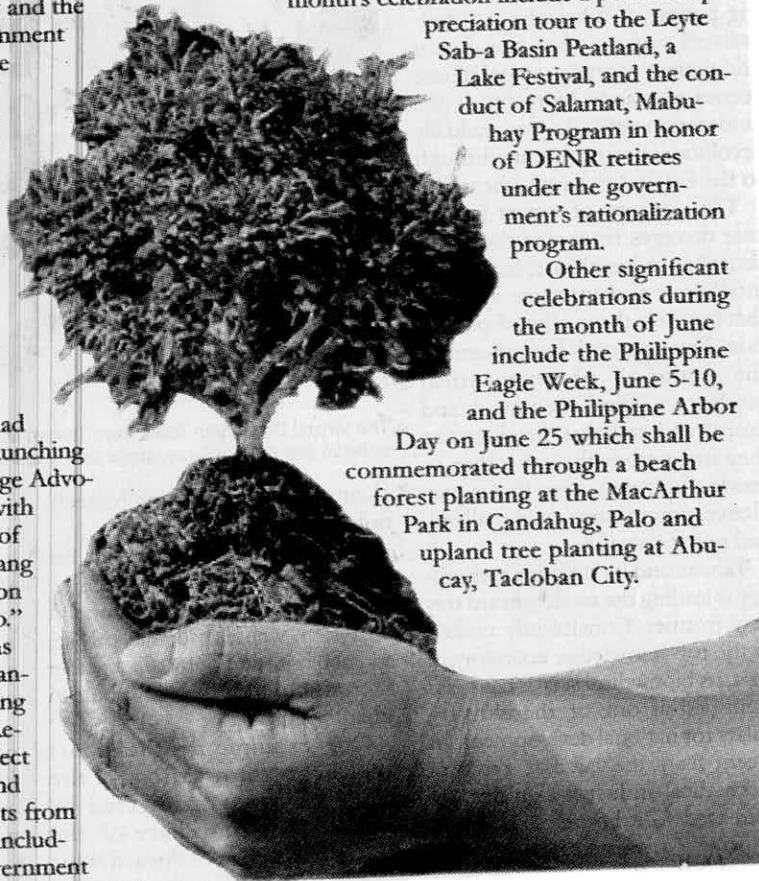
The World Environment Day on June 5 shall be highlighted by a foot parade and a program at the Ormoc Super Dome to be participated by around 400 stakeholders.

The DENR shall also conduct a multi-sectoral forum on climate change, alongside the awarding of environment and natural resources champions from the local government units (LGUs) and DENR employees.

More activities lined-up for this month's celebration include a peatland appreciation tour to the Leyte Sab-a Basin Peatland, a Lake Festival, and the conduct of Salamat, Mabayay Program in honor of DENR retirees under the government's rationalization program.

Other significant celebrations during the month of June include the Philippine Eagle Week, June 5-10, and the Philippine Arbor

Day on June 25 which shall be commemorated through a beach forest planting at the MacArthur Park in Candahug, Palo and upland tree planting at Abucay, Tacloban City.



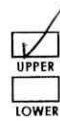




STRATEGIC  
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# BusinessMirror

*Always look at today's business*



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# Air pollution causes 1 in 8 deaths worldwide

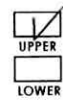
*It threatens biodiversity and human survival.*

By ROLANDO A. INCIONG  
*Special to the BUSINESSMIRROR*

**B**EAT air pollution." This was the theme of this year's World Environment Day, celebrated by 193 countries all over the world. The day is observed annually to promote worldwide awareness and action for the protection of the environment.



PHOTO BY ARIFIN AL ALIMUDI/ACB ZOOMING  
IN FOR BIODIVERSITY PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY



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## Air pollution causes...

Some air pollution facts from United Nations Environment Programme (Unep): It causes one in eight deaths worldwide.

Indoor air pollution kills 4.3 million people every year.

It damages crops.

92 percent of people worldwide do not breathe clean air.

It costs the global economy \$5 trillion every year in welfare costs.

Ground-level ozone pollution is expected to reduce staple crop yields by 26 percent by 2030.

The Unep has identified five major sources of air pollution: households, industries, transport, agriculture and wastes.

Household air pollution comes from the indoor burning of fossil fuels, wood and other biomass-based fuels for cooking, heating and lighting homes.

The Unep said energy production is a leading source of air pollution. Coal-burning power plants are a major contributor, while diesel generators are a growing concern in off-grid areas. Industrial processes and solvent use, in the chemical and mining industries, also pollute the air.

The global transport sector accounts for almost one-quarter of energy-related carbon-dioxide emissions. Transport emissions have been linked to nearly 400,000

premature deaths.

The Unep reported that agriculture has two major contributors to air pollution: livestock, which produces methane and ammonia, and the burning of agricultural waste.

Around 24 percent of all greenhouse gases emitted worldwide come from agriculture, forestry and other land-use.

Open waste burning and organic waste in landfills release harmful dioxins, furans, methane and black carbon into the atmosphere. The Unep said that an estimated 40 percent of waste is openly burned.

### UN report on air pollution

ACCORDING to the World Health Organization (WHO), every year around 7 million people die prematurely from diseases caused by air pollution. That is 800 people every hour, or 13 every minute, dying because of the dirty air they breathe.

Approximately, 4 million of these deaths occur in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2019, published by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), exposes how threats—such as air pollution, diseases, earthquakes,

drought and climate change—combine and feed on each other to exacerbate their impact on human health and the environment.

“People and assets around the world are being exposed to a growing mixture of hazards and risks in places and, to an extent, previously unrecorded. Heatwaves mixed with drought conditions can trigger intense wildfires that cause high levels of air pollution... a perfect storm is created by the complex interlinkages of different natural and anthropogenic events and processes,” the UNDRR report says.

“As one of the most significant environmental hazards after climate change, air pollution contributes to the global burden of disease through atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse-gas emissions and their precursors, particulate matter, heavy metals, ozone and associated heatwaves,” the UNDRR report adds.

### China in the forefront of fight versus air pollution

THIS year's main event celebration was hosted by China in Hangzhou in Zhejiang province. Vice Minister Zhao Yingmin of Ecology and Environment of China,



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Air pollution causes...

in announcing China's hosting of World Environment Day, said "China has demonstrated tremendous leadership in tackling air pollution domestically and is ready to help spur the world to greater action. Air pollution is a global emergency affecting everyone. China is leading the push and stimulating global action to save millions of lives."

China, with its growing green energy sector, has emerged as a climate leader. The country owns half the world's electric vehicles and 99 percent of the world's electric buses.

By hosting World Environment Day 2019, the Chinese government demonstrated its innovation and progress toward a cleaner environment.

### Asean meets the challenge of air pollution

EXECUTIVE Director Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) said the 2019 theme, "Beat Air Pollution," is very relevant to the people of Asean, now more than ever, given that the WHO estimated that indoor air pollution in the Asean region has caused more than 376,000 premature deaths; while

outdoor air pollution contributed to more than 149,000 premature deaths annually.

She explained that the Asean region, endowed with a diversity of species, forests, marine areas, oceans and wetlands, will stand to lose much of these natural richness if the quality of air continue to deteriorate, and along with this, the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems, which are key to the survival, development, well-being and prosperity of some 650 million Asean citizens.

She reported that the 10 Asean member-states, supported by the ACB, have a number of initiatives aimed at protecting the region's rich biodiversity and ecosystems from pollution and other drivers of biodiversity loss.

The Asean Heritage Parks (AHP) Programme, for example, promotes conservation of biodiversity-rich protected areas through effective management, including preventing all forms of pollution.

The majority of these AHPs are forest areas, which play a key role in the battle against climate change, releasing oxygen into the atmosphere, while storing carbon dioxide.

Forests are called "green lungs" of the Earth and are vital to the survival of people against air pollution.

The Asean also has an initiative to reduce greenhouse emissions from peatland fires through the Asean Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution.

Lim said the Asean has been gradually adopting the biophilic approach to greener and more sustainable cities.

Scientific studies have proven that with more trees in the city, the prevalence of childhood asthma tended to drop. So as the urban areas in the region expand, more and more subnational governments are planning to build cities that

are greener, biodiversity-friendly, thus less polluted.

### Humans: Both problem and solution

MOST causes of air pollution come from human activities. But humans can also be the solution to this global problem.

Lim said industries can put in place technologies that will reduce the release of air pollutants from their operations. They can spearhead and mobilize their company personnel and even the public to plant native and appropriate vegetation in their surrounding areas that will help absorb carbon, and reduce airborne and respiratory problems in nearby communities. The ACB supports such biodiversity-friendly initiatives from the private sector.

On transportation, Lim explained that the public can be encouraged to use alternative means of transport—such as bicycles, skateboards or scooters—to reach closer destinations, and to call for dedicated lanes to be set up for the purpose.

The practice of reducing, reusing and recycling of waste can also start at home. Waste segregation can reduce the volume of residual waste, and methane emission from saturated landfills.

"The World Environment Day is not the only chance to demonstrate that if human activities are the cause of pollution, humans can also be the solution."

"Let us make each day of the year an opportunity to practice green lifestyles and behavior. Let us all promote green living by decreasing our carbon prints, using environment-friendly products, clean technology and renewable energy to help ensure an environment with healthy biodiversity and ecosystems that will contribute to sustainable development, human development and human survival," Lim emphasized.





## Businesses help save the environment



Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas II

### RISING SUN

**T**HE world celebrated World Environment Day on June 5, encouraging global awareness and action toward decreasing air pollution, which is this year's theme. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to do something to take care of Mother Earth. Meanwhile, businesses the world over have also started to realize that helping or spearheading campaigns that solve environment-related problems, along with poverty and hunger, is not just hip but is actually good for business. Organizations are starting to realize that the world needs them and that they cannot rely completely on government and civic actions to solve the problems that all of us share.

The World Economic Forum recently published a write-up detailing specific areas where businesses can have an impact on the campaign to save the planet. So to help celebrate World Environment Day and share information that has the potential to inspire others to join the efforts, I wish to share the discussions here.

First on the list is the sugges-

tion for business organizations to invest in nature-based solutions. This means putting some money into nature-based efforts to reduce carbon. Some examples include the preservation and conservation of marine protected areas, forests, soil, coastlines and ocean.

The creation and promotion of a circular economy is also highly

**Governments are encouraged to come up with carbon-pricing schemes so that more companies will invest in cleaner production, thereby reducing their carbon emissions, or to fund research into fuel cells or renewable energy subsidies. Experts argue that if greenhouse-gas emissions become expensive, businesses are going to clean up their act and even "help shape carbon markets we need in the future."**

encouraged. A circular economy is one where products are designed in such a way that they don't have to be immediately thrown out but rather reused or recycled. Organizations have the resources and capability to create business models, like the sharing economy, so people don't need to own or buy stuff like we used to.

The use of clean technology—solar energy and other low-carbon energy options—is highly encouraged as this has been proven to reduce CO2 emissions from electricity generation. In fact, when clean technology is used, it does not only help

address climate issues. According to the WE Forum report, it also helps tackle "illegal fishing, increase the traceability of materials, enabling better management of forests using satellite imagery and on-the-ground sensors."

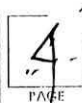
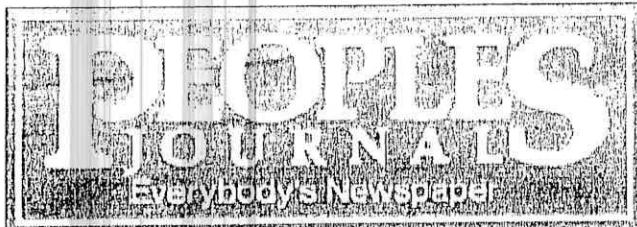
Finally, governments are encouraged to come up with carbon-pricing schemes so that more companies will invest in cleaner production, thereby reducing their carbon emissions, or to fund research into fuel cells or renewable-energy subsidies.

Experts argue that if greenhouse-gas emissions become expensive, businesses are going to clean up their act and even "help shape carbon markets we need in the future."

Scientists say we only have a few years to act, before it becomes too late. Children and children's organizations all over the world have stepped up their campaigns to call for bigger efforts to save the planet. Every single action counts. Individuals and families have to do their part. Businesses have to wake up and work with everyone else, too, because they can certainly create greater impact considering their size, resources and influence.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



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## EDITORIAL

# Environmental-friendly

**WE totally agree the idea would promote inventiveness and environmental creativity among the people.**

The use of native-organic, and indigenous materials would also help farmers earn extra money by making face masks made of these local materials.

But the main problem remains massive air pollution coming from industrial, vehicular, and agricultural exhausts or the burning of fuel and other organic or farm wastes.

The key to the solution of the problem lies not in the cure but in the prevention.

We have enough environmental loss that regulate or impose emission standards on industries, the transport sector, and even community or household waste incineration.

Still, the campaign to promote creativity in the battle against air pollution is laudable.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) is promoting creativity to call for action against air pollution.

For its "Gusto namin ng malinis na hangin" (We want clean air) mask challenge, EMB is seeking either photos or videos of people with their face masks, particularly those made of recycled materials. Ten winners will be chosen.

"Face masks do little to protect people from air pollution but can be an effective way to highlight how much Filipinos want clean air," EMB OIC Asst. Dir. Vizmina Osorio said in an interview over the weekend.

The contest focuses on face masks, especially from recyclables to help show urgency for protection from polluted air which most people breathe, she added.

Recyclable materials are among wastes generated in the country. Experts identified waste, households, industry, transportation, and agriculture as the main human sources of air pollution.

The mask challenge is an activity for the country's annual June celebration of World Environment Day and Philippine Environment Month both focusing on air pollution this year, the EMB official said.

"Share your most creative mask photo, a commitment to beat air pollution and challenge your friends to join you in making a difference," said EMB in its contest promotion.

The contest is open to people in the National Capital Region as well as Regions III (Central Luzon) and IV-A (Calabarzon). Entries must include captions on how they can help address air pollution, noted EMB while maximum length of video entries must be 30 seconds.

Entries will be accepted until June 21.

According to EMB, the contest's 10 winners will receive invites to the launch of "Kantalikasan" album, with 10 songs about the environment, and gift cheques worth PHP1,000 each.

"Kantalikasan" is an environmental songwriting competition.



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## Kalikasan: Kaagapay sa Buhay

NI DR. GARY Z. REGALA

**MAHALAGANG** salik ang kalikasan upang tayo ay mabuhay sa araw-araw.

Hindi natin namamalayan, ngunit karamihan ng ating pangangailangan mula sa oksiheno (oxygen), isang uri ng hangin na kailangan ng katawan upang mabuhay ay mula sa kalikasan.

Ilan sa mga hilaw na bagay (raw materials) tulad ng sangkap sa gamot, papel, tela, kahoy at plastic ay galing sa kalikasan.

Idagdag pa ang mga yamang mineral katulad ng bakal, tanso, pilak, ginto, kromito at tingga ay mahalagang pundasyon ng industriyalisasyon na nakatutulong sa kabuhayan ng mamamayan at ng bansa.

Sa kalikasan din nagmumula ang mga produktong petrolyo (fossil fuel) gaya ng uling, langis at natural gas.

Ang mga likas-yaman na ito ay ginagamit upang makalikha ng enerhiya na nagbibigay elektrisidad sa mga tahanan, gusali, establisimiyento, lugar pasyalan, ahensiya, mall at mga trasportasyon.

Ang natural gas tulad ng methane, ethane, propane at butane ay mga karagdagang enerhiya na nagbibigay ningas upang makaluto ng makakain saanman naroon.

Marapat na ingatan at pahalagahan ang kalikasan dahil ito ay karugtong ng ating bituka at anumang pagkasira nito ay dama ng kasukasan.

Gayunman, nakalulungkot isiping dahil sa pag-unlad ng teknolohiya at mayabong na industriyalisasyon ay kaakibat nito ang unti-unti at patuloy na pagkasira ng kalikasan dahil sa mga "by-product" na basura o "industrial wastes" na inilalabas patungo sa ilog, lupa at sa hangin.

Ang kamalayan sa tamang pangangalaga at paggamit ng kalikasan ay mahalaga hindi lamang sa sarili kundi para na rin sa susunod na henerasyon.

Ito ay "environmental sustainability" na nakukuha natin sa kalikasan ang raw materials na kailangan sa pag-usbong ng industriyalisasyon na hindi nasisira ang ecological balance.

Ang Republic Act 9512 na naglalayong malalim na maunawaan ang mga kinakaharap na environmental issues at makabuo ng mga kasanayan upang ang lipunan ay magkaroon ng kamalayan at responsableng desisyon sa wastong paggamit ng kalikasan.

Ang kamalayan sa nangyayari sa ating kalikasan at kongkretong plano ang kailangan upang mapangalagaan ang ating likas na yaman mula sa mga mapagsamantala at personal na interes ng ilang indibiduwal at kompanya.

Ang kamalayan at plano ay hindi sapat kung walang pagkilos na magmumula sa mamamayan, civic organization, environmental advocates at sa pag-asa ng bayan - sa mga kabataan.





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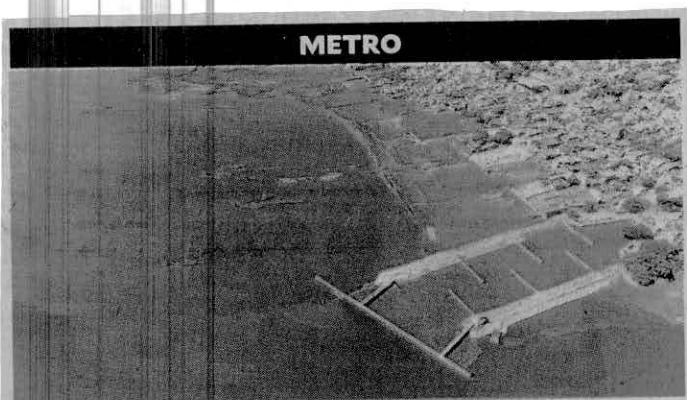
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## Algae in Laguna de Bay not harmful despite smell

It may stink but the algal bloom in Laguna de Bay does not pose a threat to health, according to Muntinlupa City health officials. Since last month, residents have been complaining about the foul odor from the lake, comparing it to stench from pig pens. The city health office says the algae growing in the lake is the filamentous freshwater green algae, not the blue-green kind that produces harmful toxins. —STORY BY DEXTER CABALZA **A15**



—MUNTINLUPA PIO/DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR RJ PATDU SMITH

**SMELLY PROBLEM** Muntinlupa residents living near the Laguna de Bay have been complaining since last month about the foul odor coming from the lake. They likened the smell to the stench emanating from pig pens and decaying fish.



# Algae in Laguna de Bay not harmful despite smel

## Muntinlupa City government reassures residents living near lake

**By Dexter Cabalza**  
@dexcabalzaINQ

The Muntinlupa City Health Office (CHO) has assured residents that the ongoing algal bloom in Laguna de Bay does not pose a threat to public health.

In an advisory, the city health office said the algae in the lake were filamentous freshwater green algae, also known as pond scum of the genus *Spirogyra*. These are not the harmful blue-green algae, which produce cyanotoxins (toxins from photosynthetic bacteria) that can make humans and animals sick.

Diarrhea, skin rashes, eye irritation, cough, sore throat and headache may be experienced if one swallows, breathes or comes into contact with water contaminated by toxins from blue-green algae. Most algae, however, pose no threat to humans.

Since last month, Muntinlupa City officials have been re-

ceiving complaints from residents and workers of establishments near Laguna de Bay about the foul odor coming from the lake. The smell has been described as "similar to the stench of pig pens and decaying fish."

### Stench spreading

The foul smell has reportedly spread to the farther areas of Northgate Business District in Barangay Alabang, around two kilometers from the lake shoreline.

Muntinlupa city information officer Tez Navarro said the local government recently created an interdepartment task force to spearhead the cleanup of Laguna de Bay.

Its members come from CHO, Lake Management Office (LMO), Environmental Sanitation Center, Environment Protection and Natural Resources Office, Office of the Mayor and other environmental agencies.

Navarro recommended that affected residents wear face masks, especially if they suffer

from respiratory illnesses such as asthma, and to seek medical help in cases of difficulty in breathing.

According to CHO, the *Spirogyra* algae—locally called "lumot" or "liya"—appear in the lake during summer when the water level goes down.

When liya reaches the lakeshore, however, it dries up and emits a stench.

"The presence of liya in Laguna de Bay is a natural part of the aquatic ecosystem and is not a threat to public health unlike the impact of blue-green algae," it said.

Algal bloom takes place in higher water temperatures (above 30 degrees Celsius). The situation in the lake was further worsened by the summer heat.

In a 2015 report by the city's LMO, it explained that the presence of liya was "beneficial ... as it is a natural food of the fish" in Laguna de Bay, which Muntinlupa City shares with Taguig and Pasig, along with Rizal and Laguna provinces.

The stench from dried-up liya, however, may cause people to experience difficulty in breathing and stomach aches, even trigger asthma attacks and respiratory tract infection.

### Water service interruptions

Algal bloom has also resulted in water service interruptions since April for customers of Maynilad Water Services Inc. in the western portion of Metro Manila and parts of Cavite province.

Maynilad has two water treatment facilities on Laguna de Bay—Putatan water treatment facilities 1 and 2—which have a combined maximum capacity of 250 million liters per day. Production has gone down because of the algae problem.

As a long-term solution, Maynilad proposed to build a polder—a low-lying tract of reclaimed land enclosed by dikes—on the bay. The idea, however, was rejected by the Laguna Lake Development Authority last year. INQ



## SKETCHES

ANA MARIE PAMINTUAN

### Green tourism

**M**y body can tell when the air quality is good. I don't develop allergic rhinitis even when I'm caught in the rain, and I don't get skin breakouts when it's humid. My eyes don't itch when the wind is strong. I can breathe easy even after strolling around for hours.



For water quality, the litmus test is whether I can drink water straight from the tap without developing amoebiasis. This I could do in Scotland, even in the remote highland villages where I went last week looking for the Loch Ness monster (if you've imbibed enough Scottish home-brewed malt whisky, you'll see Nessie).

Back in Manila late Thursday night, a blast of vehicle carbon monoxide greeted me as I stepped out of the air-conditioned arrival area at the NAIA Terminal 3. The next morning, my rhinitis was back.

Last Friday's news on TV 5 showed video footage of the vile green algae now infesting Laguna de Bay, which has reportedly sickened residents of Muntinlupa.

I was told that while I was away, our reliable household water purifier wasn't enough to remove impurities in the tap water that had turned turbid. Everyone suffered from a bout of diarrhea, which stopped only when they bought bottled water.

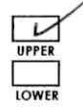
Being clean and green surely contributed to the selection of Scotland as the most beautiful country in the world. The honor was given by people using the UK-based travel guidebook *Rough Guide*, so that could have been a biased selection.

Still, even if beauty is in the eye of the beholder and I have my own biased opinion of the beauty of Philippines my Philippines, I am conceding that Scotland has stunning attractions.

And the low pollution level – whether on land or in the air and water – adds to the appeal.

\* \* \*





## Water hyacinths: Bane or boon?



**POP GOES  
THE WORLD**  
**JENNY  
ORTUOSTE**

WATER hyacinths first entered the public's consciousness during the past administration, when then-President Noynoy Aquino declared war on the pesky plants that were choking up to 20 hectares of the Rio Grande de Mindanao in Cotabato City.

Photos of the river at the time show a wide expanse of green plants so thick and dense that it blocked boats and other traffic and caused floods. Aquino said the government would study means to control the growth and spread of the water hyacinths, and explore using the plants' fiber and as biofuel or alternative energy source.

The plants, however, are hardy, and appear regularly during the wet season. They are seen blanketing the Pasig River as a huge green biomass, having traveled from Laguna de Bai.

Fast-forward to today. According to a recent advisory from the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, water hyacinths aren't all that bad and in fact have important uses particularly in rehabilitating waterways.

Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is one of the most known aquatic plants and is present in the waterways of Europe, Africa, Asia, and North America.

In its advisory released June 7, PRRC executive director Jose Antonio E. Goitia informed the public "with the start of rainy season comes the bloom of water hyacinth plants, which have now started to spread across the Pasig River all the way from Laguna Lake.

"Being a tidal estuary, the coming of water hyacinths to the Pasig River is an indication that

the water level in Laguna Lake is getting higher than Manila Bay's mean sea level.

"We received reports from concerned citizens about sightings of "green slime" at some parts of the river. We would like to clarify that the green "slime" or pigment is actually water hyacinth algal bloom. Indeed, water hyacinths are coming."

Though the plants are known to cause problems in ferry operations, they are used to remove heavy metals from the Pasig River and its tributaries.

*"Other productive and beneficial uses can be found for these plants."*

The plants are also benefiting poor families in BASECO through a handloom weaving livelihood program at PRRC's White House facility. Artisans there strip the fibers from the plant stalks and weave them into high-quality bags, table runners, fans, slippers, blankets, shawls, and bracelets. Proceeds from the sales of water hyacinth products provide the craftspeople with a livelihood.

Among those who have visited the White House to buy the handicrafts are foreigners, journalists, and politicians, among the latter Senators Emmanuel D. Pacquiao and Cynthia A. Villar, who donated more weaving equipment.

The PRRC acknowledges "that the quick proliferation of water hyacinths might cause inconvenience to the riding public of Pasig River Ferry Service.

"To prevent this problem and to keep the Pasig River navigable, we reactivated the PRRC Task

Force Water Hyacinth group." Presumably this task force will remove the plants from the paths of the ferries, allowing them and other boats clear passage.

PRRC is a government agency whose mission is "to transform Pasig River and its environs into a showcase of a new quality of urban life" towards the vision of "a new Pasig River clean and alive reflecting the country's noble history and progress."

Recently, the PRRC, with their "limited resources," did their best "to control the backflow of garbage from the Manila Bay," Goitia said in his advisory.

"We intercepted more than 300,000 kilos of solid waste that could have killed the aquatic life in the Pasig River. It was not easy, but we did not give up because our Pasig River is worth loving and fighting for," he added.

Water hyacinths might seem a bane for the conduct of human affairs on the waterways, but it turns out they actually serve a purpose in water rehabilitation and livelihood programs. Management of their growth and proliferation is key, as are information dissemination and public awareness about the topic.

PRRC should also consider reaching out to the Department of Science and Technology and other related agencies and private bodies to explore using water hyacinths for energy and fuel, as former President Aquino proposed.

By bringing other brains to bear on the challenge, other productive and beneficial uses can be found for those plants, and they needn't be considered pesky after all.

*Help rehabilitate the Pasig River and assist marginalized communities by visiting the PRRC White House for your souvenirs and gifts. /FB and Twitter: @DrJennyO*



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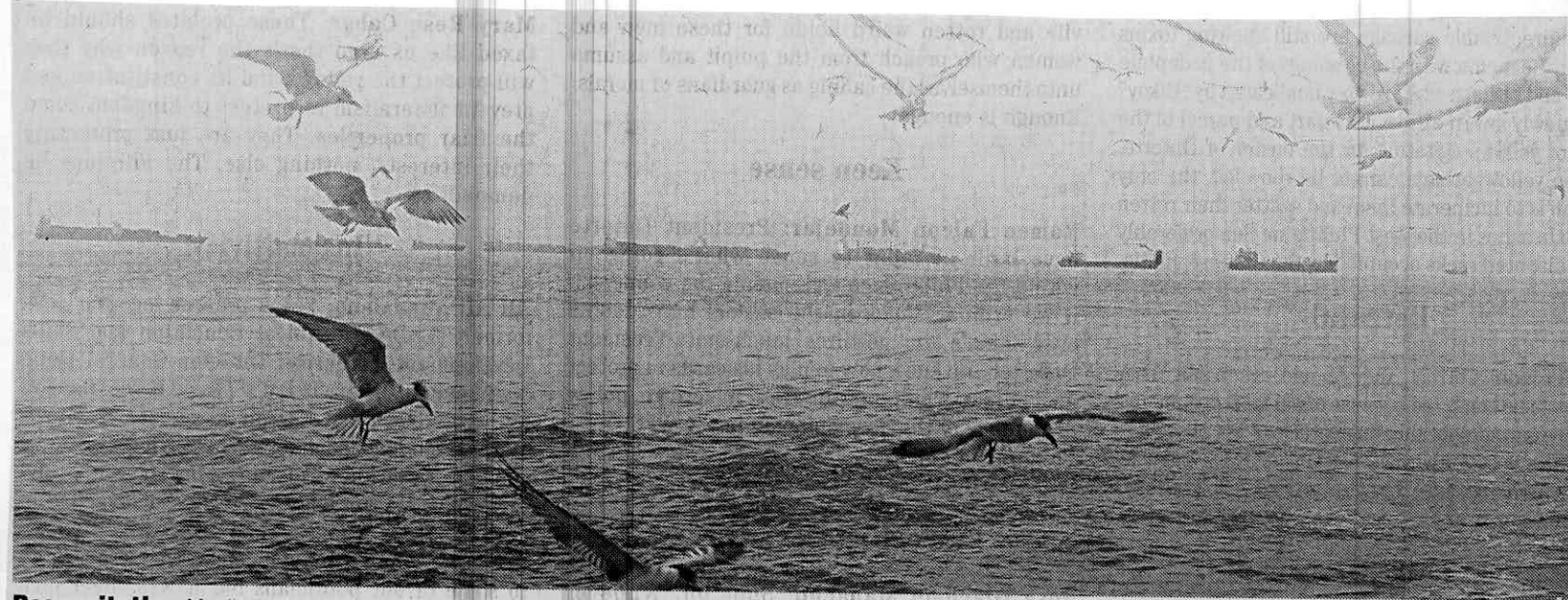
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**Resuscitation** Manila Bay again breathes with life as flock of birds flying low over the water means marine life had returned in abundance.

BOB DUNGO JR.



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### **Cebu lawyers hit destruction of Tañon Strait mangroves**

CEBU CITY—Environmental advocates have requested Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to look into the destruction of mangroves in Barangay Tangil-Tapon, Dumanjug, Cebu, a part of the Tañon Strait Protected Seascape. In a letter dated June 6, the environmentalists requested Cimatu to issue a suspension of any permit issued with respect to the mangroves considering the negative impacts this had on the already declining health of mangroves and fisheries. In their letter, lawyers Gloria Estenzo-Ramos of Oceana Philippines, Rose Osorio of the Philippine Earth Justice Center Inc. and Jocelyn Caceres of Environmental Legal Assistance Center said it “was shocking to see dead, dying mangroves in a cleared area in Dumanjug ... [and] a sign showing an ‘Earth-Balling Permit’ issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for three species of the 930 mangroves (418 ‘bungalon,’ 26 pagatpat and 490 ‘bakawan’).” But Cleo Colis of the Cebu Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office said earth-balling the mangroves was the best option for them since “there will be a road widening in the area and earth-balling these mangroves is needed.” Colis said the mangroves would be transferred to another location and replenished with new ones.” —ADOR VINCENT MAYOL





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## Cebu's garbage disposal challenge

**G**ARBAGE here, there and everywhere. As if we didn't have enough of our own, some countries even export their trash to our shores. Cebu City for one already has its hands full, with existing landfills all facing violations of environmental laws, or posing logistical challenges due to distance and traffic.

Since the overflowing Inayawan Sanitary Landfill was shut down for good, the city has been using three different, private landfills. The oldest of these is located in the town of Consolacion, a few kilometers to the north of Cebu City. Due to heavy traffic, garbage trucks, however, often make no more than one trip a day.

In January 2017, a private contractor started disposing of Cebu City's garbage at a landfill in the small town of Aloguinsan. Located almost 70 kilometers from Cebu City, Aloguinsan has earned international fame for its sustainable tourism projects - the Bojo River Cruise and Hermit's Cove. Local farmers and fisherfolk earn extra income as tour guides, dancers and boat operators, and from preparing the delicious meals and delicacies served to the tourists. The landfill, ironically, is located in Barangays Punay and Tampa-an, the latter an adjacent barangay to Brgy. Bojo where the Bojo River Cruise takes place.



RESURGENCE

**MARIT  
STINUS-  
CABUGON**

The Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Natural Resources issued a cease and desist order on Jan. 20, 2017 as the landfill operator had failed to secure an environmental compliance certificate (*SunStar Cebu*, Jan. 27, 2017).

Yet, as of May 2018 the landfill was receiving 200 to 300 tons of garbage daily from Cebu City. Residents of Tampa-an complained of the foul stench, especially from the garbage trucks traversing the barangay, and expressed concern about possible contamination of their water sources, according to a May 24, 2018 report in the *Cebu Daily News*. The EMB told CDN that the landfill was operating illegally without a wastewater management facility.

Unfortunately for the Tampa-an residents, incoming Cebu governor Gwen Garcia has announced that Aloguinsan is a "perfect spot" for Metro Cebu's garbage since the town is far from developed and populated areas and thus would pose less risk (*Cebu Daily News*, May 25, 2019). The landfill

► **MaritA6**



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Trusted Since 1938

# The Manila Times



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## Cebu's garbage disposal challenge

is owned by Rafael Moreno, the brother of reelected Mayor Cesare Ignatius Moreno and incoming vice mayor Raisa Moreno.

Recently, Cebu City started disposing of its trash in a newly constructed private landfill in Binaliw, one of the city's mountain barangays; 400 to 700 tons of garbage are being dumped there daily (*Sun Star Cebu*, June 6). Most of the garbage is from Cebu City but the cities of Mandaue and Lapu Lapu and the town of Consolacion also started dumping trash in Binaliw. This as the EMB closed the Consolacion landfill on May 7 after a truck driver was killed, buried in an avalanche of trash. The EMB, upon investigation, found that Asian Energy System Corp., the Consolacion landfill operator, failed to implement the mandatory environmental management plan. Wastewater effluents exceeded standards for several parameters. The unexpected closure of the Consolacion landfill meant that the newly constructed

Binaliw landfill started operating three months ahead of schedule.

Now hundreds of residents of Binaliw and neighboring villages have signed a petition to have the landfill closed. They complain of foul smell and flies. But other residents aver that the foul smell from the garbage is minimal and only occasional. The EMB has noted violations in the hauling of garbage—some garbage spilling on the road during transportation—but the matter is reportedly being addressed.

During a recent visit to a hospital I noticed that ordinary trash was not being segregated. What more for commercial establishments and homes? Even when there are separate bins for recyclable, biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, the end result is often mixed waste – because ordinary people do not know what is what and are made to make a judgment that might differ from that of others. And when we succeed in properly segregating

the trash, it is often mixed again during collection or disposal.

Proper waste management seems too complicated, and clever people suggest incineration as the easy way out. More on that in a future column. For now, let us draw inspiration from others who show that people, business and government are capable of taking collective responsibility for both generation and management of garbage. The recently held three-day Sarangani Bay Festival—or SarBay Fest as it is popularly known—in Glan, Sarangani, attracted more than 150,000 visitors. They generated 2,548 kilograms of trash, of which 40 percent was recyclable. Single-use plastics and styrofoam were banned (*mindanews.com*, June 2, 2019). This and proper waste segregation reduced the volume of garbage for final and permanent disposal in the local landfill to only 30 percent of the total trash generated. If Sarangani Bay can do it, so can the rest of us!



**AVERTING GARBAGE CRISIS**

# BULACAN TOWNS START SENDING TRASH TO NEARBY PROVINCES

CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE—Local officials have started diverting garbage to sanitary landfills in Pampanga, Rizal and Tarlac provinces to avert a looming garbage crisis after a landslide prevented the collection of trash from several Bulacan towns.

Noel Lim, chief operating officer of Wacuman sanitary landfill in Norzagaray town, said their facility had stopped accommodating trash from Bulacan province due to rocks and debris that blocked Igay Road leading to the dump.

The Wacuman landfill is situated at the mountainous Sitio Tiakad in Barangay San Mateo in Norzagaray.

Lim said their trucks had stopped hauling garbage from the towns of Sta. Maria, Angat, Donya Remedios Trinidad, San Ildefonso, San Miguel, Marilao, Guiguinto, Hagonoy, Bulakan, Bustos, Bocaue, Plaridel, Baliwag, Pulilan, Balagtas and the City of Malolos since May 24.

Mayor Joni Villanueva Tugna

of Bocaue said they started diverting trash to Montalban town, Rizal province and even Tarlac to avoid garbage to pileup.

Mayor Ambrosio Cruz of Guiguinto said they started sending their garbage to a landfill in Clark, Pampanga, on Saturday after getting an approval from the municipal board.

Cruz, president of the League of Municipalities of Bulacan, said other affected towns may also start sending their garbage to Clark. He did not say how many tons of garbage needed to be rerouted to Pampanga.

### Widening

Municipal officer Reynaldo Cardona said Igay Road was already scheduled for reblocking and widening. Only a farm-to-market road, Igay is designed for light vehicles and not for heavy dump trucks.

Because of the uncollected garbage, many residents have turned to social media to air their grievances.

—CARMELA REYES-ESTROPE INQ





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## Davao intensifies coastal cleanup drive

**By Korinah Saromines**

A coastal cleanup organized by the local Environmental Management Bureau yielded 2,300 kilos of solid waste in Barangay 76-A Bucana, Davao City.

Some 500 volunteers participated in the activity, including those from the Students Environmental Alliance of Davao.

Residents who volunteered to help in the cleanup activity received P5 for every sack of waste collected.

Majority of the trash collected were plastics and other non-biodegradable materials.



## "PARAMIHIN ANG BILANG NG BENGUET PINE TREES SA BAGUIO CITY" - DENR SECRETARY CIMATU

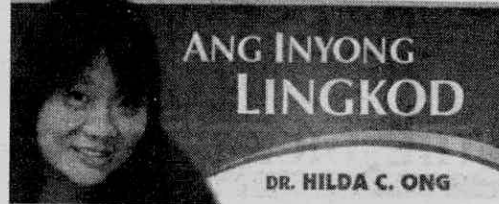
INIULAT ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) - Cordillera Administrative Region Executive Director Ralph Pablo, bilang tugon sa direktiba ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na paramihin ang bilang ng Benguet pine trees sa Baguio City dahil patuloy na bumababa ang bilang ng mga punong-kahoy sa naturang lugar, partikular na sa Camp John Hay.

Ang mga tinatawag na miscellaneous trees na kinabibilangan ng alnus, eucalyptus at calliandra ay umabot naman sa 1.2 milyon ang bilang. Kabilang din sa isinama

sa imbentaryo ay ang mga batang puno na may bilang na 885,268 na tumutubo sa ilalim ng malalaking puno. Tinatawag ding "regenerants" ang mga "young trees" na may lapad na five centimeters at may taas na one meter.

Sinabi pa ni Pablo, ang pagbaba ng bilang ng pine trees sa Baguio City ay dahil na rin sa pagiging agresibo ng lungsod at mga ginagawang bagong gusali sa tinaguriang summer capital ng bansa.

Aniya, isa sa mga paraan ng DENR regional office upang mapigilan ang pagbaba ng bilang ng mga puno ay ang pag-



hikayat sa mga lot owners na kumuha ng cutting permit bago putulin ng mga ito ang puno sa kanilang nasasakupang lugar.

Sinabi pa ni Pablo, nagsasagawa ngayon ang regional office ng kampanya upang ipaliwanag sa mga residente ang kahalagahan ng pagkakaroon ng puno sa kanilang nasasakupang lugar upang hindi putulin ng mga ito ang nakatanim kapag nagpapalaki ng mga bahay.

"Sadly, the conventional mindset is that trees should go to maximize the floor space of a house.

We explain to them the direct and indirect benefits of keeping these trees both to them and to the city, and the added-value they give to their houses as an investment," dagdag pa nito.

Sa kabuuang 5,750 ektaryang land area ng Baguio City, 1,339 o 23 percent dito ang tinatawag na closed forest o closed canopy habang 1,474 ektarya naman o 26 percent ang open forest o open canopy samantalang 2,937 o 51 percent ang residential at commercial area kabilang na rito ang nakasasakop sa kalsada at highways.



## NOT ON OUR YARD

# Ban on waste importation order readied

Dumping garbage from another country will be unheard of soon as far as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is concerned.

Giving on update on the department's plans to address the entry of hazardous and misdeclared cargo like the controversial shipment of waste from Canada, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said, "We'll prepare a department order banning all garbage coming from any other country."

This, the secretary noted, will be aimed at avoiding future similar shipments into the country which can be detrimental to the environment and to health, and could also cause diplomatic problems

"All recyclables will not be allowed," he said.

DENR is eyeing the issuance of the order as soon as possible.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said earlier that the entry of misdeclared cargo like the hazardous

waste from Canada and trash from South Korea raised the need for stricter importation guidelines.

"There was deceit in importing the waste but if guidelines are stricter, I don't think shipments like those can enter our country," he said.

South Korea has started taking back its waste while the shipments which came from Canada and has since been in the country since 2013 has left the country only late last month.





## Solon warns of more foreign garbage shipments to PHL

**A**RANKING lawmaker at the House of Representatives called on the Bureau of Customs (BOC) on Friday to enforce the compulsory preshipment inspection (PSI) of containerized imports to prevent contraband from entering the country, including illegal trash and narcotics.

Buhay-Party-list Rep. Lito Atienza made the call warning of "a likely increase in containerized foreign garbage shipments headed to the Philippines in the months ahead."

"We've been targeted as a dumping ground owing to our inadequate controls at various ports of entry," Atienza said in a statement that he issued after the Duterte administration shipped back to the country of origin several tons of garbage that were unlawfully dumped in the Philippines.

"We are counting on PSI to effectively prevent not only illegal waste and drug shipments but also the widespread smuggling of high-value farm products, cars, electronics, apparel and what have you, stashed in containers," Atienza said.

PSI is the practice used by governments, mostly in developing countries, of requiring importers to engage ac-

credited third-party surveyors to verify shipment details, such as the price, quantity and quality of goods, before cargoes depart the exporting country.

"The practice compensates for inadequacies in the importing country's customs and other administrative controls, and discourages the undervaluation of taxable shipments from abroad," Atienza said in a statement.

Just recently, Canada pulled out 69 shipping containers of garbage, mostly plastics and household kitchen waste.

This, after President Duterte threatened to ship back and dump the trash in Canadian territorial waters, and after Manila began downgrading diplomatic ties with Ottawa.

The Philippines also recently shipped back 2.6 tons of shredded electronic and plastic waste from Hong Kong that arrived at the Mindanao Container Terminal in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

Atienza said the BOC should enforce compulsory PSI to prevent the further entry of foreign garbage shipments in the Philippines, as he warned of a likely increase in containerized foreign garbage shipments headed to the Philippines in the months ahead. *PNA*

# Water level in 8 dams continues to decline

By Neil Arwin Mercado  
@NAMercadoINQ

The water level in several dams of the country—including Angat and Ipo—continue to decline, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Sunday.

According to Pagasa, the water level at Angat Dam and Ipo Dam on Sunday further dipped to 165.74 meters and 100.74 meters respectively.

## Angat and Ipo dams

Compared to the recorded water level on Saturday morning, the water level at Angat Dam was lower by 0.41 meters, while the water level in Ipo Dam was lower by 0.03 meters despite the rainshowers experienced in various parts of Luzon.



Angat Dam

The water level in both dams remained below its normal high water level, the state weather bureau said.

Meanwhile, the water level in other dams in the country also dipped.

The water level dipped in several dams such as La Mesa,

Ambuklao, Binga, Pantabangan, Magat and Caliraya.

But the water level in San Roque Dam slightly increased by 0.37 meters from 235.87 meters on Saturday morning to 236.24 meters on Sunday morning.

At the same time, Maynilad Water Services Inc. said on

Sunday that its customers in Metro Manila and Cavite province will have their water service interrupted on June 11 and 12.

## No water service

Maynilad said the service interruption was scheduled to reinstall of a rapid mixer at the La Mesa Treatment Plant 1.

The company said customers in the cities of Caloocan, Makati, Malabon, Manila, Navotas, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Quezon will have no water from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on June 11.

Maynilad customers in Imus City will also have no water from 9 a.m. on June 11 until 6 a.m. on June 12.

Cavite residents will also have no water from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on June 11, particularly in Cavite, Bacoor, Noveleta and Rosario. INQ



# Planting root crops can help save Palawan's threatened species

STORY & PHOTOS JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

**A** GROUP of indigenous people (IP) in Bataraza, Palawan, may soon become local biodiversity heroes by planting high-value crops—cassava and *ube* (yam)—while acting as protectors of Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL) against environmental crimes in their ancestral lands.



A MEMBER of Kufa shows a newly uprooted cassava root crop at the group's demo farm in Sitio Kusor, Bataraza, Palawan.

Members of the Kusor Upland Farmers' Association (Kufa), a duly registered association with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), are now learning how to make their ancestral land more productive.

Kufa, in partnership with the Municipal Agriculture Office of Bataraza, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Community Environment and Natural Resource Office (Cenro), Lutheran World Relief, and Philippine Root Crops Institute of the Visayas State University is getting the much-needed boost from the United States

women, both for selling and food subsistence.

With the introduction of vegetable, improved variety of cassava, and *ube* as additional crops for farming, both in the demonstration farm allotted for Kufa's livelihood activity and in the members' farmlands, members now have diverse sources of income and are not dependent on one type of crop only.

Kufa currently gets material support of mainly farm inputs from different sources, including vegetable seeds that were bought from commercial sellers and cassava cuttings for the next planting

season taken from the previous season's harvest.

On the other hand, *ube* planting materials are provided for by Sunlight Foods who has invested in Kufa through its contract-growing scheme.

Rubenita Once, 52, president of Kufa, said last year, they started learning best practices in cassava and *ube* farming in Cebu and Tacloban, Leyte, last December.

The 55-strong Kufa is dominated by women with 42 women members.

Once, or *Aling* Inday to her members, used to be the wholesaler of IP members' produce, which she, in turn, brought to the town's trading center.

"Before, our members are mere housewives. Their primary job is taking care of their children. Now, as members of Kufa, they get to earn from upland farming," she said.

According to Once, IPs have indigenous knowledge in upland farming, but the slash-and-burn method is no longer allowed in Bataraza.

"From this batch of *ube*, after harvesting, members of Kufa will be given planting materials for them to use and continue planting. Sunlight Foods will buy all our products from this demo farm, and soon, the produce of our members in their respective farms, too," Once said.

She said planting *ube* and cassava, in a way, will help protect and conserve Mount Mantalingahan with the help of IPs instead of them cutting trees and hunting threatened species.

MMPL, which is named after Mount Mantalingahan, is the first protected area in Palawan. Its area is shared by five LGUs, including Bataraza.

A key biodiversity area (KBA), it is one of the 10 sites for the Alliance for Zero Extinction in the Philippines and one of the 11 important bird areas in Palawan.

Most of the threatened and restricted-range birds of the Palawan Endemic Bird Area are in this protected area. MMPL is critical for providing various ecosystem

services that benefit the local communities.

The Total Economic Value of Mount Mantalingahan is estimated to be worth \$5.8 billion. These ecosystem services include water, soil conservation, flood control, carbon sequestration, nontimber forest products, and the high potential of waterfalls, caves and other areas for tourism.

MMPL has a total of 33 watersheds making it a vital source of water in southern Palawan.

Mount Mantalingahan is also the source of income and livelihood of many upland-dwellers. Slash-and-burn farming has become rampant on the mountain, aggravating occasional timber poaching and hunting of threatened species like the talking mynah and blue-naped parrot, which are popular pets even among the locals.

By introducing a better source of income or livelihood, the USAID Protect Wildlife Project partners hope to reduce the human pressure on Mount Mantalingahan.

For every sack of *ube* a member produces, Once said a member is assured of P300 additional income. Extra income from cassava or vegetable they chose to plant in their farms will improve their livelihood.

This, Once said, is a big help for members whose family sometimes have only cassava or root crop to share on the table.

"At USAID-Protect Wildlife Project, we are introducing behavioral-change communication. This is a different approach to environmental campaigns. We are introducing it in Palawan. We have trained LGUs staff and local campaigners on this approach in promoting positive change and behavior that will contribute to better conservation actions," said Lawrence San Diego, communications manager of Protect Wildlife in southern Palawan USAID-Protect Wildlife.

At Kufa, San Diego said a multifaceted approach was applied for improved conservation action.

"Protecting the forest and stopping illegal wildlife trade is a livelihood issue. We cannot just





Agency for International Development (USAID) through its Protect Wildlife Project.

The group has established a 1-hectare demo farm for cassava and ube to improve and make sustainable the production of high-value commodities.

The demonstration farm has a multipurpose shed courtesy of USAID Protect Wildlife Project and is serving as a training venue for community members and as production area for other crops for improved planting materials.

The USAID-Lutheran intervention in Bataraza aims to develop community enterprises in the multiple-use zones or production areas of MMPL and public lands of the five local government units (LGUs) in southern Palawan.

While Kufa was still starting, both as an organization and as a conservation enterprise, the members are optimistic of having the right market linkage for their produce.

Prior to joining the association, Kufa members have already been engaged in upland farming, with banana as their primary crop and source of income.

Many IP in Palawan are also known to plant root crops, such as sweet potato and cassava, upland rice and corn for food subsistence.

The Protect Wildlife-supported livelihood activity, to increase their income, then introduced vegetable farming, which was participated in mostly by

**“Protecting the forest and stopping illegal wildlife trade is a livelihood issue. We cannot just tell them to stop hunting birds without offering alternative livelihood.”—SAN DIEGO**

tell them to stop hunting birds without offering alternative livelihood,” he said.

Members of Kufa, he said, are trained and provided an alternative source of income, to discourage them from hunting wildlife or practicing destructive agriculture, such as slash-and-burn farming.



MEMBERS of Kusor Upland Farmers' Association fix the pyramid-type stakes in preparation for planting of ube at their 1-hectare demo farm in Sitio Kusor, Bataraza, Palawan.



# New power plants needed; reserves thin

ONE of the country's conglomerates has warned of a energy crisis anytime soon if the government continues to be lax in the construction of new power plants.

Ramon Ang, president and chief operating officer San Miguel Corp. (SMC) said reserves are very thin.

"We are not building power plants for three years already. On the other hand, if you want to build, you will be asked an ECC (environmental compliance certificate) and the permitting process is very long so I hope

they will realize there is a power shortage and we might not be in a good situation soon," Ang said.

The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) has been announcing almost daily yellow alert levels due to thin power reserves. NGCP, however, said the Luzon Grid has yet to hit the projected peak demand of 11,400 megawatts (MW) for this year.

NGCP said so far, Luzon Grid's highest peak demand for the year was at 11,245 MW that was recorded last May 15.

Given this situation, Ang said

SMC plans to put up another 1,200 MW worth of power plants to take advantage of the projected supply crunch.

He added that the company is keen on putting up the additional capacity quickly in a lot beside the Ilijan natural gas power plant in Batangas. This will either be powered with liquefied natural gas or designed as a peaking power plant to run on diesel fuel.

"They should speed up the process of CSP (competitive selection process), speed up everything, advise DENR (Department of Environment and

Natural Resources) to hasten ECC since we are really nearing a scenario of an extreme power shortage," Ang said.

SMC is currently scouting for a contractor that can provide a gas turbine and will revive an offer from contracting firm Daelim Philippines Inc. for the project.

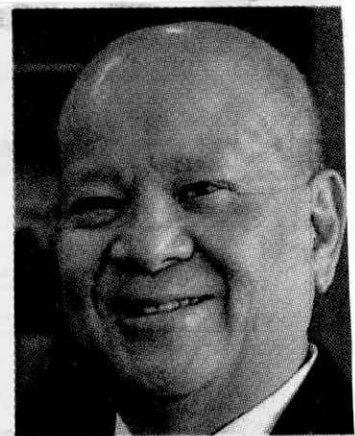
Earlier, the company said it will be able to complete 1,200 MW of renewable energy (RE) projects by 2024 as work has begun on 70 percent of these facilities which will harness solar, wind and pump hydro.

These include a wind project

in Mariveles, Bataan and pump hydro projects spread in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao as well as wind resources in Badoc, Ilocos Norte.

Ang declined to detail the allocation of RE projects per type of resource citing stiff competition in the power industry.

At present, SMC's power projects include the 1,200 MW Ilijan power plant, 2x500 MW Sual coal power plant, 4x35 MW Limay cogeneration power plant, 345 MW San Roque hydro plant and 218 MW Angat hydro power plant.



ANG

## Nickel Asia leads 'plogging' for 2019 World Environment Day

Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), together with its subsidiaries – Cagdianao Mining, Dinapigue Mining, Hinatuan Mining, Hinatuan-Manicani Project, Rio Tuba Nickel, and Taganito Mining – once again led in “plogging” for World Environment Day 2019 (WED). It is the second year that NAC conducted this sports activity simultaneously with its subsidiaries all over the country, with the theme: “Healthy Ka Na,

Nakalinis Ka Pa.”

Plogging is jogging while picking up trash.

The United Nations declared June 5 of every year as WED, declaring today as “a special day to draw awareness and encourage actions to pressing environment concerns” such as pollution. This is the second year that NAC as a corporate citizen is participating in this world event celebrated by some 100 countries across the globe.

The NAC-wide plogging was simultaneously conducted by NAC employees and their partners in their respective communities from the company’s mining operations in Surigao Del Norte, in Bataraza in Palawan; in Cagdianao in Dinagat Island; in Dinapigue in Isabela; and in Guiuan in Eastern Samar.

In Surigao City alone, some 2,000 kilos of trash, as estimated by DENR-PENRO, were collected by some 150

joggers who joined this year. NAC hopes that this amount of trash “plucked up” from the streets by the joggers will gradually decrease as the company intensifies its campaign on responsible waste management.

Ploggers from Surigao City were joined by members of the Surigao Runners Club; REACT Miners; Tri-Sur; Bugsay Marajaw

Surigao; Emergency Service Corp. Alumni Association, BJMP, BFP, DENR-PENRO, DepEd, Joy FM, and other running enthusiasts.

Engineer Robert Francisco, NAC-Taganito Mining’s environment manager, said “we are doing this activity every year to get the attention and support of the communities to get involve in the discourse on environment protection and sustainability. We at NAC take these matters very seriously and our everyday work involves discussions on issues pertaining to serious environment concerns such as plastic and air pollution and we want everyone on the communities to get in on the game.”

UN also calls WED as a “the people’s day for doing something to take care of the earth” and NAC employees are taking the lead in rallying the people in the communities that the company serves to recommit themselves in our inherent responsibilities as stewards of the environment and natural resources.







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## Sarbay Fest 2019: A green kind of beach party

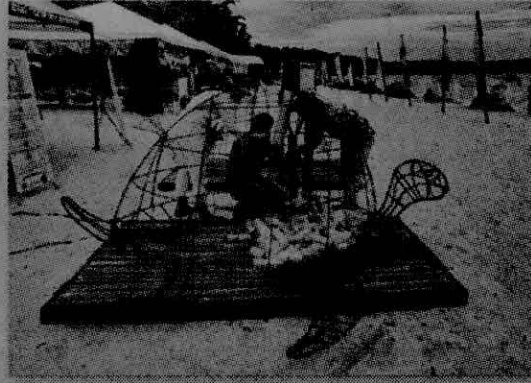
THE ANNUAL Sarangani Bay Fest (SarBay Fest) at the Gumasa Beach in Glan, which started in 2006, has in recent years been trumpeting the idea of environment-friendly and sustainable tourism.

This year, the provincial government amplified this message by, among other

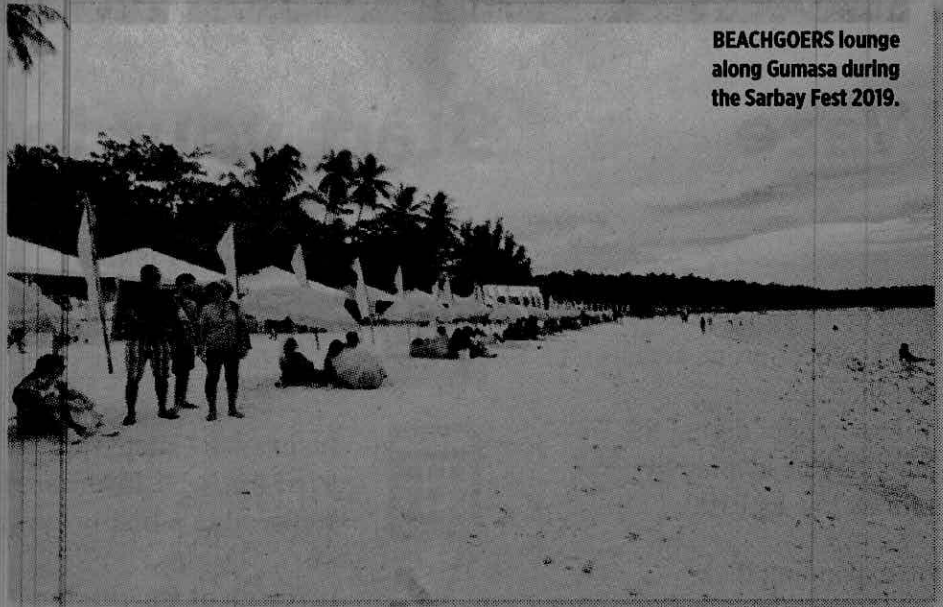
things, partnering with corporate giants Smart Telecommunications, Inc. and San Miguel Brewery Inc. (SMB) to set up innovative bins for recyclable trash. SMB set up a towering bottle-shaped bin made of steel wire where people can chuck in their recyclable wastes. Smart, the wireless unit of PLDT, Inc., made a turtle-shaped bin with a machine and sensor attached for counting the number of plastic bottles thrown in. The machine also had an application wherein people who dropped their plastic can register their names and mobile numbers to get free load credits — P5 for every two cans or plastic bottles, and P25 for 10 recyclable items. "On the shoreline we have huge installations where visitors took a selfie and instagrammed (their photos) and also placed their trash. This was another creative way of our Sarbay citizens to keep it clean and keep the environment and the beach at its best," Michelle L. Solon, regional tourism council chair, said in an interview. — **Maya M. Padillo**



**THE SARBAY Fest 2019 crowd enjoy the evening stage performances.**



**A TURTLE-shaped bin for recyclable waste that gives Smart load credit to those who chuck in their trash.**



**BEACHGOERS lounge along Gumasa during the Sarbay Fest 2019.**

PHOTOS BY LEAN S. DAVAL JR.



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# Coca-Cola leads investment in a PHP 1B pioneering food-grade recycling facility in the Philippines

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Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc. (CCBPI), the bottling arm of Coca-Cola in the country, announced on June 7 plans to help boost recycling in the country through an investment in a PHP 1B pioneering food-grade recycling facility. This represents Coca-Cola's first major investment in a recycling facility in South East Asia and is part of the Company's commitment to a World Without Waste. To ensure that the positive impact of the facility will be total and far-reaching, CCBPI has engaged in discussions with potential partners: a reputable local company, as well as an internationally-recognized green technology partner in recycling. Anchored on the circular economy concept, the recycling facility will collect, sort, clean and wash post-consumer PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic bottles and turn them into new bottles using advanced technology.

"Coca-Cola has called the Philippines

its home for 107 years and counting, and we want to do our part in ensuring sustainability within its shores," says Gareth McGeown, President and CEO of Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc. "Our Coca-Cola bottles and cans are 100% recyclable and have value as a recycled material. Our aspiration with this facility is to close the loop on our packaging by helping turn old bottles into new ones. This facility is testament to our resolve in making our World Without Waste vision a reality across the country, with real positive impact not just across our value chain, but also in the communities where we belong."

Once established, it is expected that the facility will contribute to the improvement of PET collection and recycling rates in the Philippines—and, with this, the generation of more Filipino jobs. The project will also help uplift the livelihood of workers across the waste materials value chain, including that of waste-pickers and waste-

collectors. Through job creation and the institutionalization of environmentally conscious practices, this recycling facility will help build stronger communities.

The project is an integral part of “World Without Waste” – Coca-Cola’s global commitment to collect and recycle the equivalent of every bottle and can it sells by 2030. The company also intends to use an average of 50% recycled content in its packaging including its PET bottles. Coca-Cola Philippines’ roadmap to making this vision come to life will be launched on June 11, 2019 in Parañaque City.

World Without Waste is one of Coca-Cola’s most ambitious sustainability goals to date. Over the years, the company has made strong progress in the Philippines by integrating sustainability across the business and the value chain—from water resources (the company has already achieved over 100% water replenishment through an array of community water

projects); to energy (50% of Coca-Cola’s operational energy requirements in the country utilize renewable energy); to sustainable packaging (50% of volume in returnable glass bottles). Other projects in the pipeline involve using solar panels in the company’s manufacturing facilities as part of its Clean Energy 2.0 initiative.

McGeown concludes, “World Without Waste is an important and very ambitious goal and we are confident that by working together with our partners, we can deliver on our commitments here in the Philippines. The bottle-to-bottle closed loop investment that we are announcing today is a model for how we want to grow sustainably and responsibly. We recognize that there is a packaging waste problem in the world today and this investment is one of the ways we are stepping up to be part of the solution for the long-haul.”



**Gareth McGeown, President and CEO of Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc., met with Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon—principal author of HB 7903, An Act Providing For The Phase-Out Of Single-Use Plastic Products—to discuss Coca-Cola’s plans on how to further improve the collection and recycling of PET plastic bottles in the country. Coca-Cola is set to invest in a Php1 billion recycling facility in the Philippines.**



**Gareth McGeown, President and CEO of Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc., and Atty. Juan Lorenzo Tañada, Director for Corporate and Regulatory Affairs of CCBPI, present Rep. Francisco Jose Matugas II with a publication on Coca-Cola’s journey in the Philippines. This came after discussions on how the Company is set to invest more in environmental initiatives and, also, to support sustainable tourism in Siargao. CCBPI will be deploying beach-cleaning equipment in the country’s emerging tourist destination.**





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# Coca-Cola to invest in ₱1B state-of-the-art recycling facility in Philippines

**C**oca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc. (CCBPI), the bottling arm of Coca-Cola in the country, announced plans to help boost recycling in the country through an investment in a ₱1 billion pioneering food-grade recycling facility.

This represents Coca-Cola's first major investment in a recycling facility in South East Asia and is part of the company's commitment to a World Without Waste.

To ensure that the positive impact of the facility will be far-reaching, CCBPI has engaged in discussions with potential partners: a reputable local company, as well as an internationally-recognized green technology partner in recycling.

Anchored on the circular economy concept, the recycling facility will collect, sort, clean and wash post-consumer PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic bottles and turn them into new bottles using advanced technology.

"Coca-Cola has called the Philippines its home for 107 years and counting, and we want to do our part in ensuring sustainability within its shores," said Gareth McGeown, president and CEO of Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc.

"Our Coca-Cola bottles and cans are 100 percent recyclable and have value as a recycled material. Our aspiration with this facility is to close the loop on our packaging by helping turn old bottles into new ones. This facility is testament to our resolve in making our World Without Waste vision a reality across the country, with real positive impact not just across our value chain, but also in the communities where we belong."

Once established, it is expected that the facility will contribute to the improvement of PET collection and recycling rates in the Philippines—and, with this, the generation of more Filipino jobs.

The project will also help uplift the livelihood of workers across the waste materials

value chain, including that of waste-pickers and waste-collectors. Through job creation and the institutionalization of environmentally conscious practices, this recycling facility will help build stronger communities.

The project is an integral part of "World Without Waste" – Coca-Cola's global commitment to collect and recycle the equivalent of every bottle and can it sells by 2030. The company also intends to use an average of 50 percent recycled content in its packaging including its PET bottles. Coca-Cola Philippines' roadmap to making this vision come to life will be launched on June 11 in Paranaque City.

World Without Waste is one of Coca-Cola's most ambitious sustainability goals to date. Over the years, the company has made strong progress in the Philippines by integrating sustainability across the business and the value chain—from water resources (the company has already achieved over 100 percent water replenishment through an array of community water projects); to energy (50 percent of Coca-Cola's operational energy requirements in the country utilize renewable energy); to sustainable packaging (50 percent of volume in returnable glass bottles). Other projects in the pipeline involve using solar panels in the company's manufacturing facilities as part of its Clean Energy 2.0 initiative.

"World Without Waste is an important and very ambitious goal and we are confident that by working together with our partners, we can deliver on our commitments here in the Philippines. The bottle-to-bottle closed loop investment that we are announcing today is a model for how we want to grow sustainably and responsibly. We recognize that there is a packaging waste problem in the world today and this investment is one of the ways we are stepping up to be part of the solution for the long-haul," McGeown concluded.

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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# Duterte to mayors: Clean your cities

By ARCYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

**P**resident Duterte has one advice for new mayors who will be assuming their posts on June 30: Clean their cities or the government will force it on them.

In an interview Saturday in Davao City, Duterte, a former mayor himself, said being mayor is just about making sure that the city is clean.

"It's just about cleaning the city, imposing law and order, and especially drugs, and try to limit the movements of criminals from other places," he said.

"These are the things we would like to do which in the past has been there on the agenda of government. It's either they accept the present mindset of the government, or if not, we will force it upon them. There's no other choice," he added. ▶4

## Duterte to mayors...

According to the President, the Philippines is still a democratic country but noted that democracy has good and bad effects on society.

"Yes, it is a democracy and there are things in a democracy which are bad, and there are things in a democracy which are very good. But there are bad things, too much democracy, too many rights, and the fragile crime-and-punishment story of this country is not the point of...," Duterte said.

◀1 "Either tanggapin ninyo o talagang ipalunok ko sa inyo (you accept it or I will force it on you). I have no other choice. If you want, just follow, if you want a better life, or I will enforce it on you. That has always been my paradigm even when I was mayor," he added.

President Duterte also advised those aspiring to become presidents not to covet the position and just allow fate to take over. He said this was also

the advice of his late mother.

"The presidency is a gift from God. My advice to the coming presidents: Do not covet anything and it will come to you," he said.

"Hayaan mo lang, huwag mong hingiin. Sabi niya (Nanay Soleng), pagka hiningi mo 'yan sa sarili mo, patay ka. Hingin mo 'yan sa Diyos. At kung ipagpapala ka ng Diyos, ibibigay sa 'yo (Just let things happen, don't ask for it. My mother said if you ask it for yourself, you're doomed. Pray for it and if God allows it, it will happen)," he added.





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## Mayors told to clean up cities

President Duterte on Saturday advised new mayors assuming their posts on June 30 to clean their cities or he will force the government's present mindset on them.

In an interview in Davao City, Duterte, who was mayor of the city before becoming president, said being mayor is just about making sure that the city is clean.

"It's just about cleaning the city, imposing law and order, and especially drugs, and try to limit the movements of criminals from other places," he said.

"These are the things we would like to do which in the past has been there on the agenda of government. It's either they accept the present mindset of the government, or if not, we will force it upon them.

There's no other choice," he added.

According to the President, the Philippines is still a democratic country but noted that democracy has good and bad effects on society.

"Yes, it is a democracy and there are things in a democracy which are bad, and there are things in a democracy which are very good. But for there's bad things, too much democracy, too many rights, and the fragile crime-and-punishment story of this country is not the point of..." Duterte said.

"Either tanggapin ninyo o talagang ipalunok ko sa inyo. I have no other choice. If you want just follow, if you want a better life, or I will enforce it on you. That has always been my paradigm even when I was mayor," he added. **(Argyll Geducos)**



**EDITORIAL**

## Build that new airport

**T**here is no doubt about the power of infrastructure spending to boost the economy of a country. Time and again, it has been proven that spending substantial sums of money on building big-ticket projects like airports, seaports, highways and mass transportation systems will result in greater economic activity that will, in turn, create more jobs and lift more people out of poverty.

The current environment under the Duterte administration is proof of this, with the Philippine economy continuing to grow at a good clip despite the uncertainties of global trade that has affected business confidence in other countries.

Yet, there is also no doubt that the administration's "Build, build, build" infrastructure drive can still stand improvement. Specifically, the President's flagship economic program—with an estimated P9 trillion projected to be spent to improve the Philippines' outdated infrastructure—will be even more effective in achieving its stated goals if its gears and cogs turn faster, from the approval process for getting one particular megaproject off the drawing board and into the actual construction phase.

Case in point: the New Manila International Airport that San Miguel Corp. wants to build on a sprawling 2,500-hectare tract of land in Bulacan, just a few minutes north of Metro Manila.

The proposed airport will have four parallel runways (double that of even the most ambitious rival proposals currently being considered by government), eight taxiways, hundreds of air bridges and several passenger terminal buildings that will make the current nightmarish congestion horror stories at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) and other gateways in the country a thing of the past.

Other benefits are less obvious, but no less important. The project is expected to create one million new jobs, both directly and indirectly. That's because building the megaproject will involve hiring thousands of construction workers from the surrounding provinces, and thousands of architects, engineers and technical staff. All these people will have to be fed, housed and clothed. And they will be paid wages that they will spend for themselves and their families—spending that will go some way toward further boosting the country's gross domestic product.

San Miguel contends that even the local environment stands to benefit, as it plans to build a spillway that will channel all the excess water from the Pampanga River and nearby watershed areas straight into Manila Bay, bypassing Bulacan's plains and solving the province's annual flooding problem.

Land values are also expected to increase—a phenomenon that will boost the net worth of Filipinos residing in northern Metro Manila and the nearby provinces of Central Luzon.

At present, the biggest infrastructure deal on the government's plate is the \$7-billion Metro Manila Subway project, which is expected to bring massive direct and indirect benefits to the national and local economies. The Bulacan airport, however, is worth more than twice that amount.

The best part of the deal, it appears at this time, is that the government won't have to spend a single peso of its projected \$15-billion cost. Zero government guarantees, too. San Miguel—the country's largest conglomerate—has committed to finance the mammoth undertaking by itself, through a combination of its own financial muscle and the confidence of its creditors, both here and overseas.

So what's the status of the project at the moment? Previous disagreements between the government and the proponent over the terms of reference have apparently been resolved, and the Swiss challenge is underway, whereby other parties are invited to submit a counteroffer to see if they can better San Miguel's terms. The process will be concluded later this month.

Almost a year ago, thousands upon thousands of travelers to and from Metro Manila, around the country and around the world had to endure long hours of flight delays or outright cancellations after a Chinese airliner's mishap caused the closure of Naia's main runway for almost two days.

Such incidents only highlight the sorry state of the country's infrastructure, and why progress toward the creation of a new international aviation gateway such as the Bulacan airport, which has gone through a long, drawn-out process that began nearly seven years ago, needs to proceed at a faster, more urgent pace. The Duterte administration's vaunted political brawn should help push this along by brooking no further undue delays.



## Ingat sa wet wipes

Hiniling ng isang environmental group sa korte na ipagbawal ang pagbebenta ng disposable wet wipes na may mapanganib at nakalalasong kemikal.

Umapela rin sa publiko ang EcoWaste Coalition na busisiin nang husto ang product profiles ng mga nasabing produkto bago bilhin upang matiyak na ligtas itong gamitin.

Paliwanag ng grupo, naalarma sila kasunod na rin ng pagkakatiskubre ng isang inspection team sa mga disposable wipes na ipinagbibili sa merkado na ginamitan ng ipinagbabawal na preservatives at biocides.

Ini-report na rin ng grupo sa Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ang mga lugar sa Metro Manila kung saan matatagpuan ang disposable wipes na ibinebenta sa abot-kayang presyo kumpara sa mga de-kalidad na produkto.