

22 JUN 2019

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**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**





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**AMID SHORTAGE OF SUPPLY**

# Water dep't pushed

It is the opinion of LWUA and it is for our subcommittee to evaluate its contention

**By Hananeel Bordey**

Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday vowed to start preliminary work for the creation of a Department of Water to finally address the perennial problem of supply shortage especially during dry season.

Arroyo said that she and Quezon City Rep. Winnie Castelo can still use their nine remaining days in Congress to do preliminary actions on the matter.

The outgoing House Speaker noted that the creation of the department was being strongly proposed by the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA).

"Winnie, the Chairman, and I are available on Tuesday for that purpose. So we can pass

to the next congress the proposal of the Department of Water," Arroyo said in an ambush interview during the joint awarding of titles, contract to sell and individual notice of award for residents of NGC East Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Arroyo and Castelo, who are both outgoing lawmakers, have nine days remaining before their term expires on 30 June. The 18th Congress opens on 22 July.

"It is the opinion of LWUA and it is for our subcommittee to evaluate its contention," she said in an ambush interview.

"Well, that has been an advocacy already for the next (Congress) but because it's an advocacy that LWUA wants to express, if (LWUA Administrator Jeci) Lapus wants, the head of

LWUA, we can call an oversight committee," she added.

A year ago, Lapus has already proposed the creation of the Department of Water. He pointed out that this could help in ensuring faster, simpler and more efficient public service in connection with water.

Lapus raised the need for a single government agency that will handle all aspects of providing safe drinking water to Filipinos nationwide.

At the Senate, Senator-elect Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go vowed to propose the creation of the said department.

Go said that this will prevent the recurrence of the water crisis that happened in the past few months and this will ensure adequate supply of clean and potable water for Filipino households.



# Water service interruption worsens

## FROM B1

By **Ronnel W. Domingo**  
@RonWDomingoINQ

Water users are in for a greater ordeal starting today as Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. begin longer hours of service interruption as regulators are expected to further reduce supply coming from Angat Dam, where the level is expected to breach the critical low level on Saturday.

Monitoring by the weather bureau showed that as of Friday morning, water level at Angat was pegged at 160.28 meters above sea level (masl). With the stock receding at about 0.4 me-

ter daily, the level is expected to be lower than the critical mark of 160 masl by Saturday.

"Manila Water is set to implement a new scheme of rotational water service interruptions for the entire East Zone for an average of 12 to 17 hours due to the National Water Resources Board's (NWRB's) further reduction of allocation to the concessionaires," the Ayala group subsidiary said in a statement.

Last June 1, NWRB reduced the allocation to Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System—of raw water that Manila Water and Maynilad treat to produce potable water—from the normal 48 cubic meters per second (cms) to 46 cms on account of the continuing de-

crease of the level in Angat.

NWRB further reduced the allocation to 40 cms starting June 20 as Angat prepared to reactivate its Low Level Outlet, which is used for drawdown of raw water when the level is 160 masl or lower.

Starting June 22, when water at Angat is expected to be lower than the critical level, the allocation is to be tightened some more at 36 cms.

"We are therefore constrained to implement this new rotational scheme," Manila Water said. "The additional 4 cms reduction translates to a deficiency of 350 million liters per day equivalent to the consumption of almost 700,000 population per day."

Manila Water said it needed

to interrupt service "to almost all of our customers" to distribute "more equitably" the limited supply.

"What we are aiming is for all our customers to have at least several hours in a day of water in their taps to allow them to store water in the comfort of their own homes," the company said. "This rotational water service interruption may be implemented until a sustainable safe water level in the Angat Dam is achieved."

Based on Manila Water's latest schedule of service interruptions, for example, Addition Hills and Barangka in Mandaluyong will experience low pressure or no water for 18 hours, longer than the 15 hours implemented previously.

Also, service in some barangays of Manila will be disrupted for 13 hours from 10 hours earlier this week. The same goes for parts of Ugong (Valle Verde 1-4) in Pasig, with 18 hours of service interruption from 15 hours previously.

In a separate statement, Maynilad said it was forced yet again to interrupt services throughout its concession area to maximize the limited supply and ensure that all customers will have some water supply daily.

In the West Zone, for example, some barangays in Pasay will have low pressure or no water for 18 hours from 13 hours earlier this week. Also, some barangays in Parañaque will suffer for 19 hours from 16

hours previously.

Following complaints from consumers that the schedules are not reliable, the MWSS Regulatory Office has warned Manila Water as well as Maynilad about possible fines because of their "failure to observe" the respective schedule they announced.

"While we have posted the schedule of water service interruptions in our social media platforms, fine-tuning of operations may take around three days from reduction of supply to be able to capture the actual schedule of water availability in the households, as the limited water supply needs to be balanced across the entire East Zone," Manila Water said. INQ



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# Contingency steps set amid water crisis

By **Krixia Subingsubing**  
@krixiasINQ

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has set contingency measures amid the looming water shortage, as Angat Dam in Bulacan province—the main source of water in Metro Manila—hits its near critical level of 160 meters with no forecast of heavy rainfall in the next few days.

Chief among these measures is allowing city governments hardest hit by the water crisis to reopen existing deep wells, said Michael Salalima, spokesperson for the Metro Manila Development Risk Reduction and Management Council (MMDRRMC).

The use of dry wells was earlier banned to protect groundwater from overextraction. But given the impending shortage, city governments have been temporarily allowed to use them as long as they secure a permit from the National Water Resources Board, Salalima added.

Water concessionaires Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. have also been directed to start releasing information materials about the schedule of water interruptions and to make them as accurate as possible, the MMDRRMC official said.

To make water distributed by fire trucks safe to drink, the

MMDA will deploy its mobile water purifiers for use by the public.

Meanwhile, city governments have been asked to identify possible water sources in their area and to make fire trucks available to deliver water in communities hardest hit by the shortage.

The agency said it would also be doing test pit restorations along the Commonwealth-Old Balara area to stabilize water supply in the eastern zone of Manila, from Friday to Tuesday.

Such measures were meant to "prolong Metro Manila's water supply until July," or until heavy rains were expected to replenish the depleted dam.

Maynilad, which services the eastern zone of Manila, has projected that some 760,000 households would have less than 12 hours of water supply once the water allocation reaches 40 cubic meters per second.

Both Manila Water and Maynilad project that the water supply could still make it until August even without heavy rainfall.

The agency's focus, however, is to encourage the public to use water responsibly—"not conserve, because this would lead to hoarding water and making [the shortage] worse for others. But they must learn to use their water responsibly," Salalima said. INQ



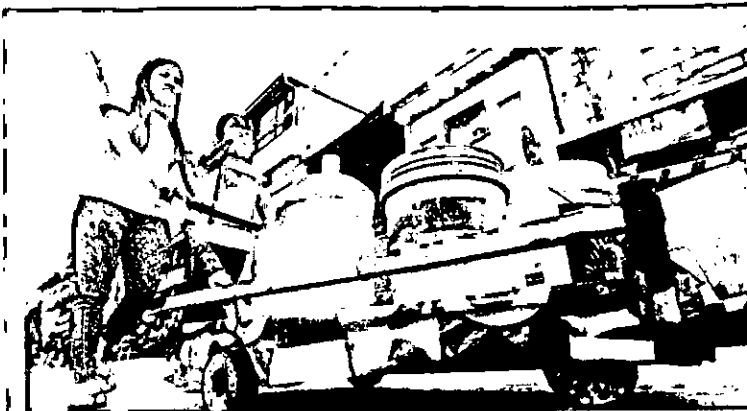
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# Angat water for Metro Manila cut further; reduction till June 30



**BACK WITH THEIR BUCKETS** It's off to the water-rationing tanks again for these residents of Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, on Friday, after Maynilad Water Services said that 75 percent of its concession area was now affected by Angat Dam's depleted water volume. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

**CITY OF MALOLOS**—The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has again reduced the water allocation of Metro Manila from Angat Dam as the regulator expected the level at the reservoir to hit the critical mark of 160 meters above sea level. (See related story of Page A6)

As of 6 a.m. on Friday, the dam's water level was at 160.28 masl, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

It dropped further by 0.45 meters from 160.73 masl from Thursday, way below the minimum op-

erating water level of 180 masl.

More than 90 percent of Metro Manila's water needs come from Angat Dam.

On Monday, June 17, the NWRB urged Metro Manila consumers to save water as the reserve level was expected to breach the critical mark.

NWRB officials said the dam's dropping water elevation was forcing them to implement new, rotational water service interruptions in the National Capital Region.

Patrick James Dizon, division manager of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Sys-

tem, said the allocation for Metro Manila consumers would be reduced to 3.1 billion liters per day starting today until June 30.

"Based on historical level, [the elevation] in Angat Dam usually plummets during summer from April to June. It is expected to get replenished between July and August," Dizon told the Inquirer.

#### Lack of rainfall

He said the lack of rainfall due to a weak El Niño was causing the dam's water level to continuously drop.

The reserve level was 161.20

masl on Monday and was going down by about 0.4 meter daily, Pagasa said.

Officials manning the now privatized Angat Hydroelectric Power Plant said it would take a strong typhoon to raise the dam's water elevation.

The lowest water elevation at the dam was at 157.57 masl recorded on July 13, 2010.

The dam is also a source of water for irrigation of more than 25,000 hectares of rice farms in 17 towns in Bulacan province and four towns in Pampanga province. —CARMELA

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# Water board hopes for heavy rains soon in Angat

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Officials of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) expressed hope that heavy rains would start soon in Central Luzon to replenish the dwindling water level in Angat Dam in Bulacan

caused by the long dry spell.

"Only heavy rains will help improve Angat Dam's continuously declining water level," a board official said yesterday.

The latest monitoring of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Ad-

ministration (PAGASA) showed that as of 6 a.m. yesterday, the dam's water level was down to 160.28 meters, 45 meters lower than the 160.73 meters recorded in Angat last Thursday.

"We need to have heavy rains

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in the Angat watershed for it to be recharged, and for its water elevation to improve," NWRB executive director Sevilla David said.

The NWRB said if water level in Angat Dam drops below 160 meters there will be further reduction in the allocation for potable water supply to Metro Manila residents serviced by concessionaires of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

The cut in water allocation will reportedly affect 75 percent of the customer base of west zone concessionaire Maynilad and 80 percent of Manila Water's customers in the east zone.

The absence of rain over the Angat watershed is compounded by "monsoon breaks"

that PAGASA explained are a shift between weather systems, resulting in short breaks of no rainfall for several days or weeks.

He said water allocation for MWSS stays at 40 cubic meters per second (CMS). "However, we are set to enforce further decrease in water allocation for concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad once water level in the dam drops below the 160 meter mark."

David said when this happens, which they estimate will be today, NWRB will impose a 36 CMS allocation for Metro Manila's water concessionaires.

At the same time, David said the Angat Dam Low Level Outlet (LLO) will be operational once the 160-meter low

level mark is breached.

David said that they will put the dam on LLO mode, which involves opening the dam's bottom channel.

He said tests have been conducted on the turbidity of the water released from the LLO and that results show water quality is "manageable," meaning fit for treatment by the two water concessioners.

This will be undertaken while cloud-seeding operations and the re-activation of the MWSS deep wells are enforced.

David stressed, "Water demand from consumers plays a significant role in preserving our water supply. We have been constantly appealing to the public to conserve water and we are now repeating the plea, especially when the expected rain is not yet pour-



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Water board hopes for heavy rains soon in Angat

ing where it is needed. Saving what is coming out of the tap and harvesting rain when it comes are substantial contribution to lessen the water demand from the dam."

Manila Water announced yesterday that the firm would implement a new scheme of rotational water service interruptions for the entire east zone of Metro Manila for an average of 12 to 17 hours.

"We are therefore constrained to implement this new rotational scheme. The additional 4 CMS reduction translates to a deficiency of 350 million liters per day (MLD) – equivalent to the consumption of almost 700,000 population per day," said Manila Water corporate communications head Jeric Sevilla.

"We need to implement service interruptions to almost all of our customers to more

equitably distribute the limited supply. What we are aiming is for all our customers to have at least several hours in a day of water in their taps to allow them to store water in the comfort of their own homes," he added.

PAGASA meanwhile reported a brewing cyclone is expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility this weekend and may enhance monsoon rains that could finally refill the drying Angat Dam in Luzon.

Based on weekly weather outlook released yesterday by PAGASA, the low-pressure area, which is forecast to develop into a tropical cyclone, will enter on Sunday or Monday.

Today, partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms will persist over the entire

country.

Josephine Salazar, regional director for Central Luzon of the National Irrigation Administration, said Bulacan farmers have to wait until the water elevation in Angat Dam reaches its minimum operating level of 180 meters before irrigation water supply could be released.

On the other hand, NWRB's David confirmed in a text message that irrigation water allocation for Bulacan and some Pampanga farmland is approved for release when Angat Dam reaches its minimum operating water level.

Water supply from Angat Dam is prioritized for use by the MWSS once its water elevation reaches the 180-meter level. – With Jess Diaz, Paolo Romero, Romina Cabrera, Helen Flores, Ramon Efren Lazaro





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# The Manila Times

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## Angat level still falling, water allocation cut anew

THE water level at Angat Dam, the primary source of Metro Manila's supply, could breach the critical low level of 160 meters today, June 22, the state-run weather bureau said.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on Friday recorded the dam's water level at 160.28, a 0.45-meter drop from the

previous day.

*"Bukas baka below 160 [meters] pa siya. Pwedeng tawagin nating critical low na. (Tomorrow (Saturday) it*

► **Falling A2**

**CRITICAL** On Thursday, the water level of Angat Dam, the main source of water for Metro Manila and nearby provinces, is seen to be on its critical mark at 160.28 meters despite the onset of the rainy season.  
PHOTO BY RUY L. MARTINEZ

**FALLING FROM A1**

### Angat level still falling

could reach below 160 meters. We can already call it critical low," Pagasa hydrologist Elmer Caringal said.

Rains remained insufficient to reverse the decline, he added.

*"Unang-una... malaki 'yung pangangailangan ng mga tao. Pangalawa, wala talagang malakas na ulan na bumabagsak within the watershed ng Angat Dam (First, demand is huge. Second, there is no substantial amount of rain within the watershed of Angat)," Caringal continued.*

Regulators who have already reduced water allocations for Metro Manila and nearby said further cuts would take effect today.

"There will be further re-

duction of allocation from the current at 40 cms (cubic meters per second) to 36 cms effective... June 22," National Water Resources Board Executive Director Seville David Jr. said in a text message to *The Manila Times* on Friday.

"It will continue until such time that we have some significant rainfall in the Angat watershed that could lead to the improvement of the water level in Angat Dam," he added.

East Zone concessionaire Manila Water Co. Inc. announced longer service interruptions that would now last from 12 to 17 hours from the previous 8 to 12.

The Ayala-led utility said the goal was for all customers to have access to water for at least several hours per day so they could store enough water for when taps run dry.

"While we have posted the schedule of water service interruptions in our social media platforms, fine-tuning of operations may take around three days from reduction of supply to be able to capture the actual schedule of water availability in the households, as the limited water supply needs to be balanced across the entire East Zone," it added.

West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc., meanwhile, said its service interruptions would run from 7 to 12 hours.



## Explain water cutoff, suppliers told

By Rio N. Araja

THE Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. have a lot of explaining to do for their unannounced water service interruptions in several parts in the National Capital Region.

In an interview over Dobol B sa News TV, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System chief regulator Patrick Ty

said MWSS wrote the two water companies asking them to explain why they failed to follow the schedule for water service interruptions.

He said the Regulatory Office is studying if Manila Water and Maynilad could be sanctioned.

"We are studying what to do with

*Next page*

them. They already knew about their water interruption, but why did they not announce it earlier?" he asked.

Under the present system, the MWSS could impose a fine on a water firm only if the unannounced interruption is persistent for 30 days.

According to Ty, Manila Water and Maynilad blamed the National Water Resources Board for their water service interruptions.

The water companies said they were forced to implement water service interruptions due to the decline in the water elevation of Angat Dam in Bulacan.

Ty, however, said the companies' defense was "unacceptable."

"They already knew Angat Dam's level would go down. They knew there would be a reduction so they should have adopted contingency measures," he said.

Jeric Sevilla, Manila Water Corporate Communications head and spokesperson, said their rotational service interruptions

were the offshoot of the NWRB reduction from 46 cubic meters per second to 40 cubic meters per second.

"This means longer water interruptions from eight to 12 hours to 12 to 17 hours daily during night time. This is because Angat Dam level continues to go down and could possibly fall below the critical level of 160 meters," he added.

Jennifer Rufo, Maynilad Corporate Communications head, said the firm would try to provide accurate interruption schedules.

The NWRB expects the water situation at the Angat Dam reservoir to hit the critical level of 160 meters on Saturday, June 22.

The party-list group Bayan Muna on Friday threatened another complaint against Manila Water Co. Inc. and said it would seek more rebates as a result of the continuing service interruptions.

The House of Representatives said it will hold a meeting of the Congressional Oversight Committee to discuss the possible creation of the Department of Water to put an end to the water crisis.



## 20 tips to help conserve water

BY CHITO A. CHAVEZ

An environment group is appealing to the public to strictly practice water conservation measures as the water level at the Angat Dam nears the 160-meter critical level.

With water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water implementing water interruptions in their respective service areas, households, EcoWaste Coalition appealed to consumers to heed the following water conservation tips:

1. Fix dripping tanks, pipes, faucets, showerheads, and hoses to prevent water loss.

2. Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, lathering **▶4**

with soap or shaving.

3. Take shorter showers with a pail and dipper and use just enough water.

4. Reuse towels a few times before putting them on the laundry basket.

5. Collect grey water from bathing and washing and reuse it to wash the car, clean the garage, maintain sidewalks or flush the toilet.

6. Place a brick or water-filled bottle inside the toilet tank to reduce water used in every flush and flush less.

7. Collect water dripping from air conditioners and use the collected water for washing mops and rugs, flushing the toilet or watering the plants.

8. Leave grass clippings on the lawn as this cools the ground and holds in moisture.

9. Spread a layer of mulch around plants and trees to retain water and reduce evaporation.

10. Water the plants early in the morning or in the evening when temperature is cooler to minimize water loss.

11. Refrain from using the washing machine if only washing a few clothes, do full loads of laundry, and use just the right amount of detergent to avoid extra rinsing.

12. Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin and not in running water; reuse the water for watering the plants.

13. Save the rice wash for washing the dishes or watering plants.

14. Steam vegetables instead of boiling to conserve water as well as preserve their nutrients.

15. Thaw frozen meat in the refrigerator overnight, not on running water.

16. Use fewer cooking and dining utensils and dishes to reduce water use for washing.

17. Choose the proper pan and pot size for cooking as bigger ones may need more cooking water than required.

18. Do not let the water run when washing the dishes, fill one basin with wash water and the other with rinse water.

19. Soak dirty pans and pots first instead of scraping them in running water.

20. Collect and store rainwater for daily chores.

"As the water level in Angat Dam continues to plummet, we appeal to all individual, household, institutional, commercial and industrial consumers to take further steps to avoid water waste," said Aileen Lucero, EcoWaste Coalition national coordinator.

She explained that water conservation should be a shared responsibility of the public and the government especially during this critical time.

"We all need to curb our water waste and conserve this precious resource as many communities face water service interruptions," she added.

Lucero also asked the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) and the water concessionaires to ensure people's access to water despite the crisis.

"We request them to initiate extra measures to lessen the hardship of consumers as taps run dry in the coming days," Lucero concluded.



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## Komprehensibong solusyon sa water crisis iginiit ni Poe

IGINIIT ni Senador Grace Poe na nangailangan na ng komprehensibo at pangmatagalang solusyon sa problema sa suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Ito ay sa gitna ng ulat nang walang abisong pagpuputol ng suplay ng tubig ng Manila Water at Maynilad sa kanilang mga customer.

Sinabi ni Poe na ang pagtiyak ng 24/7 na suplay ng tubig ay maituturing lamang na short term solution.

"In the short term, because the crisis is looming once again, the two water concessionaires should ensure 24/7 availability of water tanks that will deliver water if not house-to-house, in strategic points that may be accessed by the residents, establishments

and offices," saad ni Poe.

Ipinaalala ng senador na noong Marso ay inanunsyo na ng Manila Water na nagsimula nang mag-distribute ng 24 million liters ng tubig kada araw ang Cardona Water Treatment Plant sa ilang barangay sa Rizal.

"What impact does this have in augmenting the supply in the East Zone?" tanong ng mambabatas.

Binigyang-diin pa nito na nakatakda na ring ipatupad ang batas kaugnay sa pagkakaroon ng malinis na palikuran sa mga terminal.

"It is ironic that we have just passed a law requiring clean restrooms in terminals, yet we are faced with this problem of water supply," diin ng senador.

Iginiit ni Poe na nakadepende ang taumbayan sa kalidad at availability ng tubig at kung paano ito napapamahalaan.

"Diarrhea and a range of diseases are closely linked to insufficient water supply, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene practices," giit ni Poe.

Bilang long term solution anya dapat na palawakin ang pag-aaral sa ground water supplies nang hindi kinakailangang sirain ang kalikasan.

Dapat din aniyang busising maigit ang mga kontrata ng pamahalaan sa water concessionaires at dapat magkaroon ng plano ang mga ito kasama ang MWSS para sa anumang kondisyon. **(Dang Samson-Garcia)**



## Masusing water crisis probe ikakasa

**DALAWANG** komprehensibong solusyon ang nakikita ni Senador Grace Poe upang tuldukan na ang paulit-ulit na kakapusan ng suplay sa itatakdang water crisis probe.

Sinabi ni Poe na hindi layunin ng water crisis probe na magsisihan kundi humanap ng pang-maiklian at pangmatagalang solusyon laban sa krisis.

"It is time to look at Metro Manila's water woes thoroughly and offer a comprehensive and long-lasting solution," ayon kay Poe.

Sa pangmaikling solusyon dahil nagkakaroon na naman ng krisis, kailangan tiyakin ng dalawang concessionaires na sapat ang suplay ng water tanks, 24/7, na maghahatid ng tubig, kundi man house to house, sa mga estratehikong lugar na madaliling mapuntahan ng residente, establisimiyento at tahogapan.

Nitong Marso, inihayag ng Manila Water na nagsimulang maghatid ng 24 milyong litro ng tubig kada araw ang kanilang Cardona Water Treatment Plant sa ilang barangay sa Rizal.

Kabalintuñan naman, aniya, na kung kailan naisabat ang Better Terminals Law para sa malinis na comfort rooms, saka pa nagkaroon ng krisis sa suplay ng tubig.

"The people's well-being is highly dependent on the quality and availability of water, and how well this vital

resource is managed," aniya.

Sinabi pa ni Poe na pagtatae at iba pang sakit ang iniuugnay sa kakapusan ng suplay ng tubig, sanitasyon at poor hygiene practices.

Inihayag ng World Health Organization, na noong 2015, umabot sa 526,000 ang bilang ng batang namatay sanhi ng diarrhea.

Dapat din umanong tingnan ang mga tubig na galing sa mga poso nang hindi masisira ang kapaligiran habang dapat na ring balikan ang mga kontrata sa suplay ng tubig at maging ang MWSS.



## BULK WATER PROJECT

**HINDI** maitatangi na walang tigil sa paglago ang populasyon sa Kalakhang Maynila.

Kaya naman, kailangang magpatuloy ang paghahanap ng iba pang mapagkukuhanan ng tubig, kasabay ng pagpapaganda sa mga nakatayo nang tunnel at aqueduct.

Makatutulong daw sa problemang ito ang proyektong inaprubahan na ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

Maganda ang Wawa Bulk Water Project.

Sinasabing isang malaking hakbangin ang pagsusulong nito.

Gayunman, mahalagang segundahan ito ng iba pang mga proyekto.

Sa ganitong paraan, hindi na natin daranasin ang hirap tulad noong Abril sa silangang bahagi ng Metro Manila.

Ngunit habang isinusulat ito at kahit walang inilabas ang Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) na obligatory prayer o Oratio Imperata para sa paghingi ng ulan, kasalukuyang dumaranas ng pag-ulan ang iba't ibang lugar.

Madalas hinihiling ng mga obispo sa mga pari na bigkasin ang ganoong panalangin sa kanilang mga parokya.

Mararami ang nananalig sa kapangyarihan ng dasal kaya siguro kahit walang obligatory prayer ay bumuhos ang malakas na ulan na nangyayari sa harap ng babala na maghanda raw ang publiko sa pinangangambahang matinding kakulangan sa suplay ng tubig sa Metro at mga kalapit na lalawigan ngayong araw, Hunyo 22.

Sa pulong nitong Huwebes ng MWSS, National Water Resources Board (NWRB), PAGASA, Maynilad, at Manila Water, napagkasunduan daw na ibaba sa 36 cubic meters per second ang alokasyon ng tubig sa dalawang water concessionaires bunsod ng patuloy na pagsadsad daw ng antas ng tubig (water level) sa Angat Dam.



## Maynilad, Manila Water pinagpapaliwanag ng MWSS sa 'Unscheduled interruptions'

**PINAGPAPALI-** **WANAG** ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) ang Maynilad at Manila Water matapos umánong mabigo na magbigay ng abiso sa mga customer hinggil sa aberya ng serbisyo nito.

Sa isang panayam sinabi ni MWSS chief regulator Atty. Patrick Ty, naipadala na ng kanyang tanggapan sa dalawang water concessionaire ang baba-

la kaugnay ng reklamo.

Sa ngayon pinag-aaralan na raw ng ahensya ang parusa na posibleng harapin ng Maynilad at Manila Water dahil sa unscheduled water interruptions.

Batay sa panuntunan na sinusunod ng MWSS, maaari itong magpataw ng penalty sa concessionaire kung nagtuloy-tuloy ng hanggang 30-araw ang aberya sa tubig.



## **Ipon tubig 3-oras na lang**

# **MANILA WATER, MAYNILAD KOSTUMER PANIC MODE NA**

Lalo pang tatagal ang nararanasang water service interruptions na Maynilad Water Services Inc. at ng Manila Water Company Inc. simula ngayong araw dahil babawasan ulit ng National Water Resources Board ang kanilang alokasyon ng tubig mula sa Angat Dam.

Dahil dito, asahan na lalo hahaba ang oras ng mga water interruption na dahilan upang mag-panic mode na ang maraming mga kostumer ng dalawang water concessionaire lalo pa't may mga water advisory na halos tatlong oras na lang ang magiging supply ng tubig sa ilang lugar.

Ayon sa NWRB, ibaba ang alokasyon ng concessionaires ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) sa 36 cubic meters per second (cms) mula sa 40 cms ngayong Sabado dahil mas mababa na ang water level ng Angat Dam sa 160 meters na ngayon ay nasa critical level na Nagsimulang bawasan ang alokasyon ng Maynilad at Manila Water noong Hunyo 19 nang ibinababa ito sa 40 cms mula sa 46 cms para makatipid ng tubig at hindi agad bumagsak sa kritikal ang laman na tubig ng Angat Dam

at tumagal pa ito.

"The NWRB will further reduce the raw water allocation from Angat Dam for Maynilad starting June 22. As a result, Maynilad is constrained to implement new rotational water service interruptions throughout our concession area to maximize the limited supply and ensure that all customers will have some water supply daily," sabi ng Maynilad.

Ganoon din ang gagawin ng Manila Water na nag-update ng schedule ng rotational service interruption simula ngayong araw dahil sa pagbawas ng NWRB ng alokasyon nila ng tubig.

Pinaalalahanan ng MWSS ang Maynilad at Manila Water na sundin ang kanilang mga inaanunsiyong water service interruption.

Batay sa concession agreement, kailangan bigyang abiso ng Maynilad at Manila Water ang kanilang mga kostumer kung magkakaroon ng problema sa suplay ng tubig.

Ayon sa MWSS, kahit hindi kasalanan ng dalawang kompanya ang kasalukuyang problema sa tubig dahil binawasan ng NWRB ang alokasyon ng tubig sa Metro Manila mula sa Angat Dam, nasa

poder naman ng mga ito ang pagpapatupad ng water service interruption.

Kung patuloy na magpapatupad ng water interruption ang mga ito na wala sa kanilang inilabas na schedule ay ituturing ito na paglabag sa concession agreement at maari silang patawan ng panibagong penalty.

Ayon sa MWSS, lumalaki ang konsumo ng tubig ng mga tao dahil dinadamuhan nila ang kinokolektang tubig lalo na't nadanasan na nila na unang nawawala ang tubig bago ang anunsiyo at nararasan na nilang walang tubig kahit na naka-schedule sila na may tubig dapat.

Samantala, muling naglabas ng iskedyul ang Maynilad kaugnay sa gagawing rotational water service interruption kasunod ng pagbabawas ng National Water Resources Board sa alokasyon ng tubig na nagmumula sa Angat Dam simula ngayon, Sabado.

Tumanggap ito ng iba't ibang puna mula sa mga netizen na nalamang halos dalawang oras na lamang sa isang araw ang magkakaroon ng supply ng tubig, partikular ito sa ilang barangay sa Imus, Cavite.

Kabilang rito ang Brgy. Anabu 1 at 2 C hanggang F, Malagasang 1-D hanggang I-G at Malagasang 2-A at B na mawawalan ng supply mula alas-sais nang umaga hanggang alas-tres linggo nang madaling-araw.

Ayon sa netizen na si Josefino Boyet Serrano, "D namin mga Sr citezen gumising ganyang oras. Maawa na naman kau. Bakit ung ibang bgy 5-8 hrs my supply."

Habang himutok ni Beth Estano, "ano? 3hours lang supply nyo? madaling araw pa... paano naging patas ang rotational supply nyo?"

Ang iba pang barangay sa nasabing siyudad ay mawawalan din ng tubig na aabutin nang 15 oras. Sa Metro Manila, inanunsiyo rin ng Maynilad ang mga barangay sa bawat siyudad na maapektuhan ng higit 18 oras na kawalan ng supply ng tubig.

Gayunman, ayon sa mga netizen, Biyernes pa lamang umano ay nawalan na sila ng tubig. Sabi ni Annalyn Parayno, "21 palang ngayun pero wala na kami tubig. mali ata kalendaryo nyo!"

Ang ilan nagsabi na puyatan na naman umano at mahabang pila ang kanilang mararanasan para makapag-igib. (Eileen Mencias)





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## Eco group offers water saving tips

By CORY  
MARTINEZ

THE environment-advocate EcoWaste Coalition renewed its call to all consumers to take further steps to avoid water waste as it offered water saving tips.

The group through its national coordinator Aileen Lucero made the appeal as the water level in Angat Dam continues to plummet and now nears the 160 meter critical level.

"We appeal to all individual, household, institutional, commercial and industrial consumers to take further steps to avoid water waste," Lucero said.

Lucero stressed that all need to curb water waste and conserve

this precious resource as many communities face water service interruptions.

"As we urge everyone to conserve water, we ask the National Water Resources Board and water concessionaires to ensure people's access to water. We request them to initiate extra measures to lessen the hardship of consumers as taps run dry in the coming days," she added.

To prevent and reduce water wastage, the group urged water consumers to heed the following water saving tips which include the fixing of dripping tanks, pipes, faucets, showerheads and hoses to prevent water loss; turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, lathering with soap or shaving and

take shorter showers with a pail and dipper and use just enough water.

The group also urged the public to reuse towels a few times before putting them on the laundry basket; Collect grey water from bathing and washing and reuse it to wash the car, clean the garage, maintain sidewalks or flush the toilet and place a brick or water-filled bottle inside the toilet tank to reduce water used in every flush and flush less.

Other water saving tips include collecting water dripping from air conditioners and use the collected water for washing mops and rugs, flushing the toilet or watering the plants; water the plants early in the

morning or in the evening when temperature is cooler to minimize water loss; and refrain from using the washing machine if only washing a few clothes, do full loads of laundry, and use just the right amount of detergent to avoid extra rinsing.

Also wash fruits and vegetables in a basin and not in running water; reuse the water for watering the plants; save the rice wash for washing the dishes or watering plants; thaw frozen meat in the refrigerator overnight, not on running water; use fewer cooking and dining utensils and dishes to reduce water use for washing; do not let the water run when washing the dishes, fill one basin with wash water and the other with rinse water.



SABADO / HUNYO 22, 2019

**AKSYON LADY**



**Koye Dacer**

TWITTER @AbanteNews

**Krisis sa tubig ngayong tag-ulan, paanong nangyari?**

Board ang kanilang alokasyon ng tubig mula sa Angat Dam.

Ibaba raw kasi ng NWRB ang alokasyon ng concessionaires ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System sa 36 cubic meters per second (cms) mula sa 40 cms ngayong araw (Hunyo 22) dahil mas mababa na ang water level ng Angat Dam sa 160 meters.

Wala na ba kayong ibang solusyon na magagawa sa mahabang panahong krisis sa tubig na dinaras sa Metro Manila?

Nakapagtataakang tag-ulan na ay ang krisis sa tubig pa rin ang dinaranas ng publiko. Noong tag-init o summertime maari nating palagpasin ang problemang ito.

Pero ngayong tag-ulan na, hindi na naming kayang intindihin kung bakit ito pa rin ang sakit ng ulo ng mga consumer ng Manila Water at Maynilad.

Hindi kaya diskarte lang ito para magpatupad na naman kayo ng dagdag singil?

Malungkot tayo sa birahang nagaganap ngayon kasabay ng pagpili ng House Speaker.

Walang-wala sa kasalukuyang kaganapan sa Senado kung saan ay tahi-mik na sa pagpili ng susunod na Senate President.

Nagkaroon man ng isyu sa liderato ng Senado pero pansamantala lamang ito, hindi

katulad sa Kamara na hanggang ngayon ay ayaw pa ring manahimik at umabot na sa pagkalkal sa mga nakaraan ng ilang sangkot sa isyu.

Katulad na lamang nitong si 1Pacman Party-list Rep. Mikee Romero na napupulaan dahil sa pagpapel sa pagpili ng Speaker.

Hindi naman natin masisisi si Rep. Romero na sumawsaw sa isyu dahil siya ang tumatayong Party-list Coalition Foundation Inc., President na binubuo ng may 54 miyembro.

Ang hindi lang natin kayang tanggapin ay ang usap-usapang pag-bargain diumano niya sa grupo kapalit ng makapangyarihang puwesto sa Ka-

mara.

Ang ganitong estilo ang hate na hate ko sa mga politiko kaya sana naman ay magbago na kayo. Hindi kayo niluklok ng taumbayan para gamitin ang inyong kapangyarihan sa inyong kapritso.

At isa pang tanong papayag kaya ang mga District Congressman na manggaling sa party-list ang magiging ikalawang pinakamataas na lider ng Kamara?

Abangan na lamang natin ang teleseryeng ito sa Kamara at sana ay matapos na upang sa gayon ay makatutok na kayo sa mga isasalang ninyong kapaki-pakinabang na mga panukala na maghahatid ng benepisyo sa publiko.

Nakakagalit naman ang panibagong krisis sa tubig na dinaranas ng mga consumer ng Maynilad at Manila Water.

Ang mas lalong nakakaimbiyerna ay ang pahayag ng dalawang water concessionaires na lalong raw tatagal ang water service interruptions dahil babawasan ulit ng National Water Resources



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## Metro Manila water woes need lasting solution – Poe

THE two water concessionaires for Metro Manila should at all times ensure availability of water tanks that will deliver water, if not house-to-house, to strategic points that may be accessed by residents, establishments and offices as part of a short-term solution to the current water crisis in Metro Manila, Sen. Grace Poe said on Friday.

In March this year, Manila Water announced that its Cardona Water Treatment Plant had begun distributing 24 million liters of water per day to several *barangay* (villages) in Rizal province.

Poe said it was ironic that while the Senate had just passed a law requiring clean restrooms in transportation terminals, the country is facing a lack of water supply.

She added that the people's well-being is highly dependent on the quality and availability of water, and how well this vital resource is managed.

Diarrhea and other diseases, according to Poe, were closely linked to insufficient water supply, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene.

In 2015, the World Health Organization said the deaths of 526,000 children under five years old were attributable to diarrhea.

In the long term, Poe said, the government should explore ground water supplies that could be tapped without endangering environmental conditions and balance.

This, she added, might require a hefty investment, but it that would ensure water availability in the future.

The failure of Manila Water and the other concessionaire — Maynilad — to deliver water is as much the failure of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

**JAVIER JOE ISMAEL**



## Sanctions ready vs utility firms

MWSS chief regulator Atty. Patrick Ty said letters have been sent to the two water concessionaires with a warning against unscheduled water service interruptions

By Eimer N. Manuel

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) on Friday demanded an explanation from the Manila Water and Maynilad on the recent unannounced water service interruptions in Metro Manila.

In a radio interview, MWSS chief regulator Atty. Patrick Ty said letters have been sent to the two water concessionaires with a warning against unscheduled water service interruptions.

"We asked them to explain what happened and we gave a warning that the two

concessionaires should follow the scheduled water service interruptions," Ty said,

He added that the MWSS Regulatory Office is studying possible sanctions that could be slapped against the two companies.

Ty stressed that Maynilad and Manila Water already knew that there will be service interruptions but both concessionaires have failed to inform the public.

The MWSS official also revealed that during a recent meeting, representatives from Manila Water and Maynilad blamed the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) for

their poor service.

He said the two concessionaires claimed they had to implement the interruptions because the NWRB reduced water allocation as a result of the decreasing water level at the Angat Dam.

But Ty said he finds this "unacceptable."

Meantime, Manila Water Corporate Communications head and spokesperson Jeric Sevilla said the utility's rotational service interruptions are an offshoot of the reduction of the raw water allocation by NWRB to MWSS and its concessionaires last Tuesday.



# Krisis sa tubig titindi pa

Posibleng lumala pa ang dinaranas na krisis sa tubig sa Metro Manila at kalapit na mga lalawigan dahil sa patuloy na pagbaba ng water level ng Angat dam.

Mula ngayong Sabado, ang Maynilad Water ay magpapatupad ng mas mahabang rotational water service interruption sa 75% ng sineserbisyuhan nito ng tubig dahil sa desisyon ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na bawasan ang raw water allocation sa mga concessionaire.

Ang Manila Water naman, ayon kay Dittie Galang, communica-

tions Manager ng Manila Water Company ay magpapatupad ng rotational water service interruption ng may 12 hanggang 17 oras mula alas-12 ng hatinggabi.

Kahapon, sa tala ng PAGASA dam monitoring department ay umaabot na sa 160.28 meters ang water level sa Angat dam mula sa 160.73 meters noong Huwebes.

Ayon sa NWRB, kailangang magsagawa ng pagrarasyon ng tubig ang Maynilad at Manila Water oras na pumalo sa 160-meter critical level ang level ng tubig sa Angat.

## NI ANGIE DELA CRUZ

"Dahil sa muling pagbawas sa alokasyon ng tubig mula sa Angat dam, ang Maynilad ho ay patuloy na magsasagawa ng rotational water service interruptions sa buong area na nasasakupan ng Mayni-

lad. Kailangan po natin 'tong isagawa upang masiguro po na ang lahat po ay magkakaroon ng tubig," pahayag naman ni Maynilad media relations officer Grace Laxa.

Anyang, may 20 percent naman ng kanilang consumers ay "severely affected" na rin sa kaku-

langan ng tubig dahil sa matataas ang kanilang lugar at sobrang layo sa pumping stations ng Maynilad.

Handa naman ang Maynilad na maglaan ng tubig sa mga apektado ng pagkawala ng suplay sa pamamagitan ng 40 water tankers na naka-standby ngayon.



# BARTER STORE HELPS CITY GET RID OF PLASTIC WASTE

By Dale G. Israel  
@dalegisrael

CEBU CITY—Steel Mutos is all smiles as he drags a small sackful of plastic bottles along Mabini Street in downtown Cebu City.

When he reaches his destination, the newly opened Plastic Barter Store, the 12-year-old hands over his haul in exchange for a can of corned beef.

"I want to eat corned beef. I haven't had a meal because there is no food in the house," Mutos said in Cebuano.

The Plastic Barter Store has become a hit among children from poor families here. For a sack of plastic waste, the children get canned goods, rice, school supplies, clothing, slippers, shoes, even toys in exchange.

But when Mutos' plastic bottles were weighed, they were not enough to get him a can of corned beef. He was 6 kilograms shy of the canned food.

Mutos and his friends were not a bit worried, though. His 2-kilo haul was recorded on a tally sheet.

All they needed to do was to scour the streets again for more plastic waste.

## Exchanged for goodies

According to Gina Espenilla, who tends the Plastic Barter Store, the kids enjoy collecting plastic waste and exchanging them for goodies as they have nothing else to do.

The store's more serious clients, she said, are families who line up as early as 9 a.m. with their plastic trash in exchange for rice or canned goods.



"Families really line up and ask for rice," Espenilla said. "Some do not meet the required kilos of trash but we still give them rice, provided that they make up for the deficit next time," Espenilla said.

The plastic store, which opened shop on June 15, collects between 70 and 90 kilos of water and soda bottles and other plastic wastes a day, according to Espenilla.

## Hollow blocks

The plastics are fed into a grinding machine to produce hollow blocks, which the shop then sells to construction companies at P12 apiece.

The proceeds go to charity. The goods the store exchanges for plastic trash are mostly donations from private individuals through nongovernmental organizations like the 12 Baskets Movement, Rotary Club of Metro Cebu and Balay Samaritano, which houses the shop.

The shop accepts donations of clothing, toys, rice, canned goods from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, except Sundays.

Espenilla said the shop wanted to promote environment con-

servation awareness in its charity work. Proceeds from the sale of the plastic hollow blocks go to charitable institutions.

## No more throwaways

"Instead of throwing away plastic trash, people learn how to put these to good use. Trash bins used to be filled with plastic waste, now plastic waste can be exchanged for goodies," she said.

Espenilla said an urban poor housing project in Talisay City used the hollow blocks compacted from plastic trash.

Plastic waste accepted at the shop includes bottles, bags, sachets from junk foods, and shampoo and hair-conditioning bottles.

For 2 kilos of plastic trash, one can get slippers. Four kilos are equivalent to a kilo of rice, while 8 kilos can be exchanged for canned goods.

Toys can also be bartered for 6 kilos of plastic, while clothing can be had for 4 kilos and school supplies for 2 to 4 kilos.

You want a pair of shoes? Collect 8 kilos of plastic trash. INQ



## Mas maunlad na Boracay, makikita na

TIYAK na makikita na ang mas maunlad pang ekonomiya sa sikat na beach resort ng bansa na Boracay na isa sa most popular tourist destination na kakikitaan ng white sandy beaches at beach lifestyle.

Mainit ang mga isla sa mga investment na papasukan ng naglalakihang korporasyon matapos ang matagumpay na rehabilitasyon sa loob at labas ng Boracay sa tulong ng administrasyong Duterte.

Matapos ang anim na buwang pag-sasara ay naayos na at tuluyan nang nalinis ang karagatan na kung saan marami naman ang natuwa at nakinabang, kasabay nito ang pagpagsok ng mga negosyo sa loob ng isla na may tatlong barangay Balabag, Manoc-Manoc at Yapak.

Sa pagbabagong ito, nakikita na ni Aklan 2nd District Congressman-elect Teodorico 'Nonong' Haresco Jr., ang mga plano para sa urbanisasyon ng isla ng Boracay. Mula pagkabata ay nakitaan na si Haresco ng sikap para umasensyo.

Ibabahagi ni Haresco ang kanyang eskperyensya pagdating sa entrepre-

neur na kung saan ay tutulungan niya ang mga Aklanon na magtayo ng maliit na negosyo na una na niyang nagawa noong kabataan niya sa pamamagitan ng pagbebenta ng hipon sa Aklan at ibinebenta pagluwas sa Maynila.

Itutulak din niya na magkaroon ng trabaho ang mga Aklanon para maging bahagi sila ng pag-unlad ng Aklan at makatulong sa development ng socio-economic sector, na isa sa hinahangad ni Haresco.

Si Haresco ay una nang naging public servant noong 2013 na naging author at co-author ng mahigit 60 house measures kabilang na ang mechanism for the sustainable development and use of the island of Boracay, An act granting P1,000 monthly stipend by way of financial assistance to centenarians, An act granting P500 monthly allowance to barangay tanods at iba pa.

Bilang halal na Kinatawan ng bagong Ikalawang Distrito ng probinsya, layon ni Haresco na ipagpatuloy ang kanyang nasimulang pagtulong at paglilingkod para sa ikauunlad ng kanyang mga kababayan. **(Vick Aquino)**