

DATE : 28 JUN 2019

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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Waste recovery facility closed

By Rio N. Araja

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources has ordered the temporary closure of a waste recovery facility in Baguio City for failure to implement waste segregation program.

Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, the agency's spokesperson, said the Irisan waste recovery facility in Baguio City was ordered closed, but gave the assurance it would not lead to a garbage crisis.

"We will be coming up with a temporary cease-and-desist order. That is subject to an explanation," he said.

"If we do not do that, the people there would get affected," he added.

Over four tons of biodegradable wastes daily were being dumped in the Irisan waste recovery facility.

DENR blamed the poor implementation of the Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act by the local government to "reduce, reuse and recycle" wastes.

Antiporda assured the public that the dump's closure would not lead to a garbage problem.

The local government could find ways to dispose of its solid wastes in nearby provinces.

According to the agency's spokesperson, DENR and the city government would meet to draw a more comprehensive rehabilitation plan for the country's summer capital.

According to records, Irisan dumpsite was ordered closed in 2012 after five people died in a trash slide at the height of Typhoon 'Mina' the year before.



DENR RIVERS LIFE AWARD IGINAWAD SA TATLONG PINAKAMALINIS NA ILOG

IBINIGAY ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pinakaunang pagkilala sa RIVERS (Recognizing Individuals/Institutions Towards Vibrant and Enhanced Rivers) sa taunang Life Award para sa tatlong pinakamalinis na ilog sa buong bansa.

Ang mga parangal ay ibinigay ng Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu sa panahon ng pagdiriwang ng ika-32 anibersaryo ng DENR na ginanap sa DENR Central Office sa Quezon City noong ika-14 ng Hunyo 2019.

Sinabi ni Cimatu na ang pagbibigay ng parangal ay naglalayong itaas ang kamalayan ng publiko sa pangangailangan na protektahan at pangalagaan ang mga ilog ng bansa bilang lifeblood of the earth.

"We aim to tap concerted action to protect

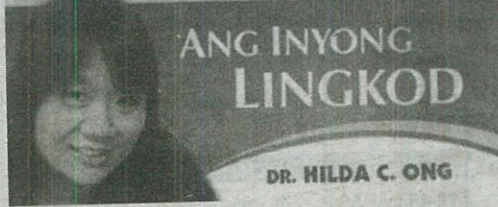
the country's rivers from degradation and pollution and ensure their suitability, sustainability, and further improvement," sabi ni Cimatu.

The top prize went to Lamut River in Ifugao province, Cordillera Administrative Region. Second prize was given to Calbayog River in Samar province, Region 8, while the third place went to Manaba River in Bohol, Region 7.

Ang mga cash prize na Php100,000, Php75,000 at Php50,000 ay ibinigay sa 1st, 2nd at 3rd placers, ayon sa pagkakabanggit.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang R.I.V.E.Rs for Life Award ay lubos na makatutulong sa pagtiyak na ang mga ilog ng bansa ay pinanatiling malinis.

"Rivers and creeks drain to bigger bodies of water and affect their



DR. HILDA C. ONG

condition. This is the case with Pasig River which drains to Manila Bay. Thus, ensuring the cleanliness of rivers is among our top priorities," dagdag ng Environment chief.

Isang kabuuan ng labing-anim (16) na classified bilang Class C na ilog ay isinumite bilang mga entry ng DENR regional office. Ang mga nominado ay pinili ng the DENR Regional Committee na binubuo ng DENR, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) at Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

Ang mga entry ay sururiin batay sa listahan ng mga aktibidad / interbensyon na isinagawa ng nabanggit na Provincial and Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENROs / CENROs) sa kanilang nominadong ilog.

Kabilang dito ang Aesthetic Water Quality Improvement, Solid Waste Management, Partnership and Community Mobilization, Information and Education Campaign (IEC), at iba pang mga aktibidad, mga interbensyon at mga makabagong likha.

Ayon kay Atty. Juan Miguel Cuna, DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations and Supervising Undersecretary para sa EMB, ang R.I.V.E.Rs for Life Award ay isang patuloy na taunang aktibidad, kung saan kinikilala ang mga nanalo sa panahon ng anibersaryo ng DENR.

"After we have awarded our very first batch of winners this year, I am sure our regional offices will work even harder to nominate their rivers to show how important our rivers are to us," sabi ni Cimatu.



Dam's water level dipping despite rain

By **Ronnel W. Domingo**
@RonWDomingoINQ

The water level in Angat Dam continues to recede despite the onset of rains, but concessionaires of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) have assured the public that they can meet the minimum regulatory standards especially if customers cooperate.

As of Thursday morning, Angat's water level has dipped to 158.12 meters above sea level, a quarter of a meter less from the previous day. The dam's critical level is 160 masl, while its minimum normal operating level is 180 masl.

Weather forecaster Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the dam's lowest level was recorded 19 years ago, at 157.56 m in July 2010.

La Mesa Dam, however, appeared to have benefited from the rainfall in Metro Manila in recent days, as its water level continues to rise to 70.16 m on Thursday morning, an increase of 0.18 m from the previous day.

In a statement, Maynilad Water Services Inc. asked its customers to store only the amount of water they need to avoid simultaneous heavy withdrawals that could affect water pressure in the pipelines.

For its part, Manila Water

Co. Inc. on Thursday said that it could still provide water to 99.85 percent of its customers at 7 psi (pounds per square inch) at ground-floor level for at least eight hours every day.

The Ayala group subsidiary also said that for 99.43 percent of its customers, the company was able to follow the schedule of service interruptions as announced.

Last week, the MWSS Regulatory Office warned the two concessionaires of possible fines if they failed to follow the schedule of service interruptions they had earlier announced.

On the weather front, Pagasa in its 4 p.m. weather bulletin on Thursday said monsoon rains will prevail over Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Mindoro and Palawan on Friday, while the rest of Luzon, including the Ilocos region, Cordillera Administrative Region, Bicol region and the rest of Mimaropa will have cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms due to the southwest monsoon, or "habagat."

Although tropical depression "Dodong" had exited the Philippine area of responsibility as of Thursday afternoon, the state weather bureau said it was monitoring a new low pressure area, estimated some 1,165 kilometers east of Mindanao, as of press time. —WITH A REPORT FROM

JHESSET O. ENANO INQ



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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Despite the rains, Angat Dam water level may breach lowest record by Saturday

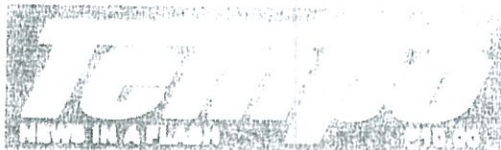
By **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

While it has been rainy over Metro Manila and parts of Central Luzon in the past few days, the Angat watershed in the eastern portion of Bulacan failed to benefit from it as the water level at the Bulacan dam continues to decline close to its lowest recorded level as of Thursday.

As of Thursday morning, Angat's water level was at 158.15 meters, which is just 0.59 meters short of its 157.56-meter record-low registered on July 18, 2010.

National Water Resources Board (NWRB) Executive Director Seville David Jr. said that if the water level continues to decline, Angat Dam could breach its lowest recorded level by Saturday.

But David said the technical working group, composed of NWRB, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), and water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad decided to maintain the allocation of 36 cubic **▶12**



Angat water level drop continues

As monsoon rains persist over the western section of the country, the water level at Angat Dam in Bulacan continues to decline and is now close to its lowest recorded level yesterday.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration weather specialist Gener Quitlong said the southwest monsoon or "habagat" will bring cloudy skies with light to moderate rains over the western parts of Luzon and Visayas, including Metro Manila, until the weekend.

Light to moderate rains to at times heavy rains will prevail over Pangasinan, Cavite, western part of Batangas, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Occidental Mindoro, northern Palawan, including Cuyo and Calamian Islands, Antique, and western part of Aklan.

While it has been rainy over Metro Manila and parts of Central Luzon in the past few days, the Angat watershed in the eastern portion of Bulacan failed to benefit from these rains.

As yesterday morning, the Angat water level was at 158.15 meters, which is just 0.59 meters short of its 157.56-meter record-low registered on July 18, 2010.

National Water Resources Board Executive Director Sevillo David Jr. said that if the water level continues to decline, Angat Dam could breach its lowest recorded level by tomorrow.

However, David said the Technical Working Group, composed of NWRB, PAGASA, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, and water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad, decided to maintain the allocation of 36 cubic meters per second until the end of June and first week of July.

"Based on the PAGASA's projections there are some rains due to the southwest monsoon this week until early next week. And hopefully this can extend to the Angat Dam area. We will closely monitor developments on the rainfall in Angat," David said. **(Ellalyn Ruiz)**

Manila Quitlong





Water board keeps Metro allocation

By Rio N. Araja

WATER allocation for Metro Manila will stay at 36 cubic meters per second until next week, the National Water Resources Board said Thursday while scattered rain-showers were falling on the metropolis.

The agency's executive director, Sevilla David Jr., said although the water level at Angat Dam in Bulacan had continued to go plunge every day, the two water concessionaires of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System—Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc.—would still receive a daily water allocation of 36 cms.

"We have decided to maintain the allocation of 36 cms until the end of June and first week of July," he said.

Meanwhile, the head of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System

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on Thursday said he would recommend the use of paramilitary troops to stop the deforestation of watersheds, which environmentalists had blamed for the recurring water crisis in Metro Manila.

The deforestation of Angat and Ipo watersheds in Bulacan has been blamed by the Sagip Sierra Madre Environmentalist Society Inc. as key reasons for the decreasing water supply from the reservoirs.

At the same time, informed sources said informal settlers in the watersheds area had engaged in illegal logging and charcoal making.

As of 6 a.m. Thursday, the dam's elevation went down to 158.15 meters.

The metro's water allocation used to be at 46 cms.

Angat dam supplies 96 percent of the Metro's safe and potable water.

Despite thunderstorm rains mostly in the afternoon, the dam's level continued to dip by .025 meters or 25 centimeters.

David said they were hoping the southwest monsoon would spawn more rains this week until next week to help increase the water level of Angat Dam.

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, monsoon rains would dampen many parts in the country.



Manila Water, Maynilad say they have no control over water supply

By CNN
PHILIPPINES

CNN Philippines— Amid calls for water concessionaires to be fined over water interruptions, Manila Water and Maynilad said they have no control over the supply of water to Metro Manila, which largely comes from the Angat Dam in Bulacan.

With the water level in the reservoir nearing a nine-year low, the National Water

Resources Board has reduced water allocation to Metro Manila to 36 cubic meters per second — which Maynilad Associate Vice President for Corporate Communications Jennifer Rufo said is a 22 percent cut to the water supply provided to concessionaires.

"That basically just means that we have less water to distribute to our customers," Rufo told CNN Philippines' The Source yesterday.

Rufo added that the amount of water they are no longer receiving is equivalent to twice the consumption of Parañaque, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa cities. On the other hand, Manila Water corporate communications chief Jeric Sevilla said they have to deal with a water supply cut equivalent to the consumption of Taguig, Mandaluyong and Makati.

"24/7 [water supply] is not feasible at the moment because there are constraints in supply," Sevilla

said.

Progressive group Bayan Muna has said Maynilad and Manila Water should be fined for the water service interruptions affecting Metro Manila and Rizal in the past weeks.

Former Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Neri Colmenares said the two companies violated their concession agreement by failing to ensure continuous water supply to their customers.

Under the agreement, government regulators can impose fines on water concessionaires if they fail to meet their obligations for more than 60 days, or 15 days in cases where lack of water supply could adversely affect public health or welfare.

But Rufo and Sevilla said the dwindling water supply from Angat Dam is considered a "force majeure" or an unforeseen circumstance which prevents them from fulfilling their obligations.

"That means, when we have no source, we only have one major source, so basically what we do is we await the allocation that is given to us and then we spread it out as much as we can equitably to as many people as possible," Rufo said.



'Protocol for dam operations could stem water crisis'

By **RAMON EFREN LAZARO**

MALOLOS – The water crisis currently being experienced in Metro Manila could have been minimized or averted outright had there been a protocol governing the operation of dams, Bulacan Gov. Wilhelmino Sy Alvarado said Wednesday.

Other factors leading to the water crisis felt in Metro Manila include the unaccounted one-half of water allocation coming from Angat Dam due to illegal connections, he said.

This is aside from the deforestation of the Angat and Ipo watersheds, Alvarado said.

He said at least 12,000 hectares of Angat have been affected and more than half of the 6,600 hectares of Ipo were denuded by illegal loggers.

On the lack of national dam protocol, Alvarado cited the Angat-Umiray transbasin tunnel that is supposed to augment the water supply of the Angat watershed reservoir.

He said the tunnel is being used during the rainy season instead for water augmentation of the reservoir during the dry season.

This resulted in spillage of the excess water of the Angat, Ipo and Bustos Dam water reservoirs going to Manila Bay

during the rainy season.

Alvarado said the spillage of excess water leads to the flooding of Calumpit, Hagonoy and nearby towns.

If there is a national dam protocol, Alvarado said the excess water can be diverted and used during the dry season.

On the illegal water connections in Metro Manila, Alvarado noted that at least half of the water allocation to the two water concessionaires of the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) are unaccounted for.

Another factor is the deforestation of watersheds in Bulacan that drastically cut

down their water-holding capacity with the siltation of river systems.

Alvarado pointed out that the main source of water supply to Metro Manila comes from the Angat watershed reservoirs that goes down to Ipo Dam, which in turn supplies the water needs of La Mesa Dam in Quezon City and eventually the Balara water filtration plant before it is served to Metro Manila households.

Meanwhile, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) said water allocation for MWSS will remain at 36 cubic meters per second (CMS) until next week.

NWRB executive director Sevillo David said even if the water level in Angat Dam is continuously declining, the 36 CMS allocation for Maynilad and Manila Water will be enforced up to the first week of July.

The Dam Water Level Update provided by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) showed Angat Dam's water level at 158.17 meters yesterday, .23 meters less the 158.40 meters recorded Wednesday.

The NWRB said that after the water level in Angat Dam hit the critical 160-meter mark

in the morning of June 22, apart from the reduction in water allocation, it also placed the dam on Low Level Outlet mode which involves opening of the dam's bottom channel.

David said they will monitor developments this week until July since it is expected that rains will come next month.

"The decision if there will be further reduction in water allocation from the 36 CMS being implemented now, will depend if there will be rains in the next couple of weeks. There is a need to review current weather projections for July," he said.

– With Rhodina Villanueva



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CARTOON

28 JUN 2019
DATE

Angat Dam management hit for unfair water apportioning

By **FREDDIE C. VELEZ**

CITY OF MALOLOS, Bulacan-Governor Wilhelmino M. Sy-Alvarado scored the management of Angat Dam for being unfair to farmers in apportioning water from the reservoir.

During a press conference at the provincial capitol Wednesday, he expressed dismay at how the farmers were always the first to suffer every time the water at the dam drops to critical levels.

"Ang ating mga magsasaka ang kauna-unahang naapektuhan sa tuwing nagkakaroon ng pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam sapagkat sila ang unang pinuputulan ng supply ng tubig sa irigasyon. At ang mga pananim din nila ang unang nasasalanta kapag nagpapawala ng tubig ang mga dams sa Bulacan sa panahon ng tag-ulan," Alvarado said.

The governor also said the province may be the host of the dam but even the Dumagats that live near it are not getting water and electricity from the reservoir.

"We will call the attention ng mga namamahala rian. We will bring the issue again to them. Sila ang tunay na nagma-may-ari, ang mga indigenous ng ating kabundukan. Sila ay dapat kabahagi diyan na nakikinabang at hindi pinababayaan. Kung mayroon na unang magkakaroon ng kuryente, dapat ay sila. Ang unang dapat magkaroon ng malinis na tubig, dapat ay sila," the governor said.

The governor bared plans to resolve the water crisis, including the construction of a sub-reservoir under Ipo Dam and the holding of water in Umiray, Quezon.

"Yung reservoir sa Quezon, sa Umiray, dapat hindi pinapapasok agad kapag rainy season, tanganan muna doon at huwag bubuksan, hold the Umiray water

and only released it on dry spell, or when it is needed," he said.

The Angat-Umiray catchbasin can hold a million cubic liters of water, enough not only for farms but for the domestic and potable water needs of Metro Manila.

Alvarado is hopeful the problem of the critical level at Angat will be resolved once the rain brought by the habagat comes.

As of 8 a.m. Thursday, the level was 158.13 meters, way below the dam's minimum operating level of 160 meters.

The level in Ipo Dam 99.60 meters, and in Bustos Dam, 13.50 meters.

Alvarado suggested the reservoir's bottom, which is heavily silted, be dredged.

He blamed the heavy siltation to the cutting down of century-old trees and rotting trees and logs at the bottom.



KRISIS SA TUBIG

Imbak ng Angat Dam, hiniling tipirin

NI FREDDIE C. VELEZ

CITY OF MALOLOS, Bulacan- Nanawagan si Bulacan Governor **Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado** sa pamunuan ng Angat Dam na pangalagaan at tipirin ang imbak na tubig nito sa gitna ng nararanasang kakapusan ng supply nito sa Metro Manila.

Sa isang pulong balitaan nitong Miyerkules, binanggit din nito ang sitwasyon ng mga magsasaka na madalas napagkakaitan ng irrigation water sa panahon ng tag-init.

Gayunman, nagpapakawala aniya ng tubig ang nasabing water reservoir dahil sa labis na supply nito kapag pumapasok ang tag-ulan.

"Ang ating mga magsasaka ang

kauna-unahang naaapektuhan sa tuwing nagkakaroon ng pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam sapagkat sila ang unang pinuputulan ng supply nito sa irigasyon. At ang mga pananim din nila ang unang nasasalanta kapag nagpapakawala ng tubig ang mga dam sa Bulacan sa panahon ng tag-ulan," sabi nito.

Binigyang-diin din nito ang naging kalagayan ng mga Dumagat na nakatira sa nasasaklawan ng dam dahil hindi nakakakuha ng tubig at elektrisidad mula sa reservoir at umaasa lamang ang mga ito sa ulan upang makakuha ng inumin.

"We will call the attention ng mga namamahala ng dam. We will bring the issue again to them. Sila ang tunay na nagmamay-ari, ang mga indigenous ng ating kabundukan. Sila ay dapat kabahagi diyari na nakikinabang at hindi pinababayaan. Kung mayroon na unang magkakaroon ng kuryente, dapat ay sila. Ang unang dapat magkaroon ng malinis na tubig, dapat

ay sila," pahayag pa nito.

Binanggit din nito ang plano ng provincial government na maaaring makaresolba sa krisis sa tubig, kabilang na ang posibleng pagpapatayo ng sub-reservoir ng Ipo Dam at pag-iimbak ng tubig ng dam sa Umiray, Quezon.

"Yung reservoir sa Quezon, sa Umiray, dapat hindi pinapapasok agad kapag rainy season, tanganan muna doon at huwag bubuksan, hold the Umiray water and only released it on dry spell, or when it is needed, may trans basin naman para continuous na mayroong pinanggagalingan ng tubig, and the water supply in our dams will no longer be a regular problem," paliwanag nito.

Idinagdag pa nito, kayangkaya ng Angat-Umiray catch basin na umimbak ng sapat na tubig na makatutulong sa pangangailangan ng Angat Dam na makakagpag-supply sa mga sakahan sa panahon ng El Niño phenomenon.



SKETCHES

ANA MARIE PAMINTUAN

Harvesting rain

In a house where my family used to live in Sta. Cruz, Manila, there was a concrete structure about 10 feet long, four feet wide and five feet high, which I first thought was a backyard swimming pool of some sort.

Of course the tank wasn't big enough to paddle around, and the water was too deep for young children. And unlike pool water, it was not treated with chlorine.

But the water came from the sky and was good enough for doing the laundry, watering plants as well as cleaning dishes, the ground and the car. During water service interruptions from what was then called NAWASA, the water from the tank was also useful for toilet flushing.

The house was built after World War II. Like many houses during the Spanish colonial and Commonwealth periods, it was designed with that large cistern equipped with a faucet for drawing out the trapped rainwater, and was built near the area for hanging clothes out to dry.

A single downpour could fill that cistern, and it meant significant savings in water expenses.

Some old structures in Intramuros still have such cisterns of varying sizes and shapes, usually on the balcony.

Today we have metal or plastic drums, but we've lost the mindset of catching rainwater for our daily needs. People worry that storing rainwater might provide breeding grounds for mosquito larvae or *kiti-kiti*, with all the diseases such as dengue and malaria that mosquitoes bring.

Also, we've been spoiled by the idea that if we need water, all we have to do is twirl a handle or push the toilet flush and out comes all the water we need. Sometimes we don't even need to touch any gadget; automatic water dispensers and toilet flushes have become ubiquitous.

But what's the good of automatic dispensers if there's no water running through the pipes?

These days in Metro Manila it seems there's water everywhere – except in the taps where it's needed. Yesterday we had no water in **The STAR** office.

PAGASA has declared the official start of the rainy season. And sure enough it's been pouring for the past days, flooding many areas in the National Capital Region. But not where the rain is much awaited: over Angat Dam, principal source of water for the NCR, and the rice fields of Bulacan.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB), which allocates water from Angat, has stopped providing water for farm irrigation, and has reduced supply to the two NCR water concessionaires, Maynilad and Manila Water.



NWRB legal unit head Archie Asuncion and engineer Susan Abaño say there is enough water in Angat for the 15 million consumers in Metro Manila and nearby areas, and rationing is just to ensure that the supply will last until the dam is sufficiently replenished.

But despite the recent heavy thunderstorms, replenishment is still about two months away, and Angat has already hit the critical water level, Abaño and Asuncion told "The Chiefs" last Tuesday on Cignal TV's *One News* channel.

The NWRB has implemented several measures to mitigate the water lack. Apart from reducing the water allocations, cloud-seeding operations are being conducted. The NWRB has also allowed the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to use existing ground water extracting facilities or deep wells to augment the supply.

In southern Metro Manila, many households have their own deep wells, installed in the days when there was no water concessionaire or the supply was available only for two to three hours every other day. During power outages, the water pumps didn't work.

Maynilad arrived just in time, as geologists were warning that over-extraction of ground water was weakening the foundations of houses, buildings and public works infrastructure. But the first Maynilad owners failed to meet their timeline for reaching all the consumers in their concession area, so the deep wells continued to be used.

Today amid the water rationing, the NWRB says the geologists' warning must be heeded, and only the MWSS is allowed to extract ground water.

For long-term measures, what are the possibilities? Metro Manila needs new sources of water. The NWRB says Kaliwa Dam in the Sierra Madre range is finally being developed and is expected to come on stream in about three years. That is if it is not snagged by what several industry players have described as the exorbitant demands for royalties by a greedy local politician. Is the water supply of millions of Metro Manila residents being held hostage by one man? Where is *Tokhang* when we need it?

There are fixtures that allow for more economical water consumption. Water recycling can also be encouraged. Singapore does not have its own freshwater source, so it has developed both a legal framework and physical infrastructure to promote water recycling throughout the city-state.

And harvesting rainwater need not be consigned to the dustbin of history. Even the NWRB says cisterns can be a component of a modern water supply system. Asuncion and Abuña said Republic Act 9275, the Water Quality Management Act of 2004, provides for the construction of underground water catchments by the national government, in spots to be identified by local government units.

Abuña said such catchments can be built under road networks, parks and government buildings. This is already being done in several countries. But the law has never been implemented.

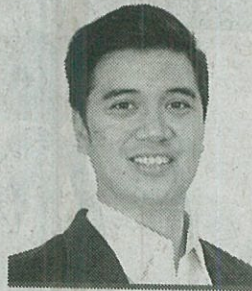
Such catchments can be useful in flood-prone areas such as España Boulevard in Manila. The catchments will be built underground and ordinary folks may never even know that such facilities exist. But they may notice less flooding and the water subsiding faster. They need not even worry about *kiti-kiti* and dengue.



Water Woes

**“
Whatever
decision
to be
made, and
course of
action to
be taken,
shall be
done in
the 18th
Congress.**”

PAGASA declared that the rainy season is here and Manila had its share of torrential rains that led to flooding in certain portions of Edsa. The City of San Juan also just held its ‘Watah Watah’ festival that saw its residents drenched in water. Despite these water-themed occasions, Manila was still hit with a water shortage crisis, a comeback from the initial shortage that happened in March, start of the summer season.



QUO VADIS
Darren M. de Jesus

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and Manila Water back in March were of the nature that the shortage in supply was attributed to the scarcity of rain since it was the start of summer season. Now that it has been raining, they have been saying that the rain pour occurred in the wrong areas, not in the vicinity of the Angat Dam. This is ludicrous.

I admittedly haven’t really put much attention on this since I stay outside of Metro Manila where water is abundant. What caught my attention is that while listening on FM radio on the way to the office around 6:30 a.m., an irate caller interrupted the radio show just to complain about his condominium in Parañaque and its property manager, who he named on-air, and tell all listeners they have water available only for 1-hour per day. Expectedly, the caller was dismissed for rudeness and off-topic, and the hosts were clearly aback as they immediately went into commercial break.

We definitely have a problem if the water shortage occurs in the rainy season. If we may recall, the excuses of the officials from

Last 25 June, Wednesday, the 17th Congress held its final committee hearing before the end of term of the incumbent politicians that come on 30 June, Sunday. The Committees on Metro Manila Development, Public Works and Highways, and Natural Resources held a Joint Oversight Hearing, again, on the water crisis. It was attended by the same people who were summoned in the hearings held last March, save for those who were no longer with them.

The meetings brought nearly the same excuses, with the officials now saying force majeure more often. Former President and House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo pointed out the need for a Department of Water, naturally seconded by fellow House Members. Incoming Senator Francis Tolentino is of the same position, saying that

there is a need to reorganize the different layers of bureaucracy concerned with water. Another suggestion is to have an Electric Power Industry Reform Act Law version for the water industry.

**“
We
definitely have
a problem
if the water
shortage
occurs in the
rainy season.**”

Indeed, if we look at it, there appears to be redundancies in the government with regard to water. We have the MWSS, National Water Resources Board, Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), and the National Irrigation Authority, controlled by 3 different offices, namely the DENR, DPWH and the Office of the President. During the hearing, House Bill 8068, otherwise known as the “Department of Water, Irrigation, Sewage, and Sanitation Resource Management Act of 2018” was adopted by the panels, which agreed to place said bill among the priority legislation that the 18th Congress shall act on.

However, what is interesting is that Rep. Winnie Castelo, Chairman of the House Committee on Metro Manila Development, appeared on TV and radio stating that the creation of a Department of Water will not solve the city’s water woes. Rep. Castelo said that said Department is just an alibi for inefficiency, and the problem of water

supply is not answered by adding another layer of bureaucracy in the government. I think he is correct.

If we look at the energy industry, we have the Department of Energy, Energy Regulatory Commission, National Electrification Administration, Transco, and the electric cooperatives, granted via legislative franchise, all over the Philippines. If we pattern the water industry to this, then we can have a Department of Water, Water Regulatory Commission, and retain the LWUA to manage the ‘water cooperatives’ granted via legislative franchise. But then again, the energy industry is not perfect and has its share of crisis, with the yellow and red alerts issued by the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines.

Whatever decision to be made, and course of action to be taken, shall be done in the 18th Congress. It will not be an easy affair, with all the stakeholders and existing bureaucracies concerning water. The best thing to do now is address the low levels of Angat Dam – the lowest in 14 years – and to immediately build alternative sources of water for Metro Manila. Otherwise, we’d be having water crisis all year long, may it be rainy or summer season.



EDITORIAL

Angat's critical water level

EL NIÑO has finally caught up with Angat Dam. Metro Manila's main water source is fast being depleted after months of no rainfall, and is nearing the lowest level of 157.56 meters recorded in 2010.

Angat Dam's declining water level is serious. It supplies 96 percent of the water requirements of the capital region, aside from providing electricity and irrigation to farmlands in nearby provinces. And the solution is nowhere near—the dam will need more storms to dump rain into the reservoir.

Angat Dam's receding water level has already prompted Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc., Metro Manila's major water concessionaires, to file a "notice of force majeure" to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System. This simply means the concessionaires could not be blamed for

not fulfilling their contractual obligations to the MWSS because of factors beyond their control—in this case Angat Dam's dwindling water stock.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration says Angat Dam will need over 300 millimeters of rainfall to normalize its water level. PAGASA hydrologist Sonia Serrano explains Metro Manila, in comparison, experiences about 140mm of rainfall on average every August.

Water authorities should now stop relying solely on Angat Dam as the major water source of Metro Manila. The effects of El Niño, for

one, is expected to affect the Philippines until August. The weather phenomenon will likely persist until the first quarter of 2020 and it is likely that Angat Dam, a multi-purpose facility, will not adequately meet the water requirements of Metro Manila consumers. The dam also generates 246 megawatts of electricity and irrigates about 28,000 hectares of farmland in Bulacan and Pampanga.

The MWSS by now should have identified a new source of raw water after the crisis started in April this year. The Wawa Dam in Rodriguez, Rizal can provide the short-term solution to the water shortage in the metropolis. The MWSS should also go over the other proposals of the private sector in providing the medium- and long-term answers to the current water crisis.





TITLE:

SIMULA noong 1997 hanggang ngayong 2019 o 22 taon, hawak na ng Maynilad at Manila Water ang konsesyon sa suplay at distribusyon ng tubig sa Metro Manila, Rizal at Cavite.

Nagsimulang ipahawak ng gobyerno, sa ilalim ni dating Pangulong Fidel Ramos, sa nasa-bing mga kompanyang ang suplay at distribusyon ng tubig at naging tuloy-tuloy nga ito hanggang ngayon.

Kung titingnan ang plano ng dalawa, halimbawa, sa problema sa poso negro, pareho silang hanggang 2037 nila makukumpleto ang proyekto para sa sapat na waste water treatment o paglilinis ng dumi ng tao, kusina at iba pa na bahagi ng tungkulin nila.

Ngayon sunod-sunod na ang mga taon na may krisis sa suplay ng tubig at nararanasan pa ito ng daan-daang libo o milyong mga kostumer nila o mamamayan.

Tanong: Tama ba ang tuloy-tuloy na pagpapahawak sa mga kompanyang ito ng suplay at distribusyon ng tubig hanggang 2037 o 40 taon o higit pa?

PAG-ISIPANG MABUTI

Buhay, kalusugan, kabuhayan at iba pang mahahalagang usapin ang nakataya sa problema, lalo na ang krisis sa tubig.

Kung wala o kulang sa tubig ang mga mamamayan, magkakaroon ng mga sinasabing pagkatuyot ng katawan o dehydration at napakaraming sakit ang nalilikha nito.

Kamatayan, pagkabobo, sakit sa balat, sakit sa tiyan at iba pa ang bunga nito.

Nariryan din ang kamatayan o hindi magandang pangpakain gaya ng palay, mais at gulay, gayundin ang mga alagang hayop mula sa baboy, manok, isda at iba pa.

Ang krisis sa tubig ay nakasasama rin sa nakatayang mga pabrika gaya ng pagsabog o pagkasira ng mga boiler na nagpapatakbo sa mga steam engine na gumagawa ng kuryente.

Pinagsisimulan din ng malalang sunog ka-



ULTIMATUM

NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

Suplay, distribusyon ng tubig ibalik sa gobyerno

hit anong bagay ang kawalan o labis na kakulangan ng tubig.

Kapag nagkasunog at hindi gumana ang mga pabrika, saan tayo pupulutin sa kawalan ng empleyo, sahod, kita, trabaho, negosyo, pag-aaral, pagpapaospital at iba pa?

Ganyan katindi ang bunga ng krisis sa tubig.

Magtanong kayo sa mga nawalan o labis na may kakulangan ng tubig at nakatatakot ang mabuhay sa mga kalagayang ito ng krisis sa tubig.

PANSARILI O PAMPUBLIKO

Dahil nga sa sunod-sunod na krisis sa tubig, mga Bro, marami na ang nangangalampag sa pamahalaan na ibalik na sa kamay ng pamahalaan ang suplay at distribusyon ng tubig.

Lumilitaw kasing tala-gang sadyang inuuna ng mga konsesyonaryo ang pansarili nilang interes kaysa interes ng publiko.

Yung bang == hindi baleng mauhaw ang tao basta malaki ang tubo.

Heto pa nga ang isang problema.

Anak ng tokwa, nagkaroon ng plano para sa paggawa ng mga dam, kasama ang improvement ng Angat dam na 96 porsyento suplayer ng tubig sa nasabing lugar.

Wala pang nagagawa, nangongolekta na ang mga konsesyonaryo para rito na baligtad sa dapat na mangyari.

Dapat gumastos muna ang mga ito bago sila maningil.

Nang kwestiyunin sila, aba, sa kanila umano ang bilyon-bilyon nang nasingil nila, natuloy man ang mga proyekto o natigil kaya.

Sa ibang salita, mga Bro, inuuna ng mga konsesyonaryo ang magkamal ng malaking tubo kaysa magbigay ng tama at sapat na serbisyo sa tubig, damay na ang tamang pagtatapon ng dumi ng tao sa katawan, kusina, pabrika, ospital at

iba pa.

Kung ibabalik umano ang serbisyo sa tubig at poso negro, hindi tubo kundi kapakanan ng tao ang higit na mahalaga.

Hindi masamang may bayarin pa rin ang mga mamamayan ngunit wala na ang sinasabing tubo na ilang tao lamang ang nakikina-bang gaya ng ilang pamilyang may-ari ng mga konsesyon at kompanyang itinatatag ng mga ito.

Bahala nang magpasahod ang gobyerno sa mga opisyal at empleyado, halimbawa, ng Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Pupwede ring magtayo ang gobyerno ng Departamento ng Tubig na siyang mangangasiwa ng lahat ng suplay at distribusyon ng tubig, gayundin ang serbisyo sa sewerage o poso negro.

KAYANG-KAYA

Para sa mga gustong pagkakitaan ang mga mamamayan sa negosyo sa tubig, pinaniniwala tayong hindi kaya ng gobyerno ang mangasiwa sa suplay at distribusyon, gayundin ang paggawa ng mga mapagkukunan ng suplay.

Pero para sa mga pabor na ibalik sa gobyerno ang pamamahala sa tubig, kayang-kaya ng pamahalaan ito.

Hindi pupwedeng sabihin ng kung sino-sino na walang eksperto at iba pang magagaling sa gobyerno sa pangangasiwa nang buo sa tubig.

Ang problema lang ay ang mga korap at mandarambong pero laging may kalalagan sila ngayon sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at sana sa susunod pang mga administrasyon.

Anomang reaksiyon o reklamo ay maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.



DALA KO EGCO

ni Joel M. Sy Egco

KRIKAL

NITONG Linggo, ang level ng tubig sa Angat Dam sa Bulacan ay tuluyan nang nanganib at bumagsak na sa 'critical level.'

Mula sa 159.78 meters noong Sabado naging 159.43 meters ito nitong Linggo.

Bumaba ito nang husto sa mismong critical level na 160 meters.

Nagbunga ito ng pag-aanunsyo ng National Water Resources Board na bawasan ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) ang alokasyon ng tubig sa dalawa nitong konsesyonaryo na Maynilad at Manila Waters.

Resulta - lahat ng customer ng Maynilad Water Services, Inc. at ng Manila Water ay makara-

ranas ng mahina hanggang sa literal na walang tubig sa kani-kanilang mga tahanan.

Agad namang kumilos ang Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC) upang kausapin ang mga kaugnay na sangay ng pamahalaan at mga water concessionaire upang masolusyunan ang kakulangan ng tubig sa Kamaynilaan dahil sa pagbaba ng deposito ng tubig sa Angat Dam.

Si Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) na kasalukuyan ding MDRRMC chairman Danilo Lim ang nagsabing kailangang maghanda sa pinakamatinding problema sa kakulangan ng tubig at kung paano ito magagawan ng para-

an ng dalawang water konsesyonaryo.

Aniya, ang mga truck na may tangke ng tubig ng Maynilad Water Services Inc. at Manila Water Company Inc. ay exempted muna sa number coding para mapabilis ang pamimigay o pagrasyon ng tubig sa mga nangangailangang lugar ng Kamaynilaan.

Ano ba ang dahilan ng pagbaba ng tubig sa Angat Dam?

Sabi ng mga dalubhasa at mga tagapagtaya ng panahon, labis na nagbago na ang panahon kaya maging ang init ng sinag ng araw ay parang tagos buto na kung ating maramdaman, lalo na sa katanghalian.

Nasa kritikal na ring kalagayan, anila, ang ating kapaligiran kaya tayo rin ay malalagay sa kritikal na kondisyon.

Kaya naman, dapat tayong tumulong sa pangangalaga ng ating kapaligiran at matutong magtipid sa mga likas nating yaman.



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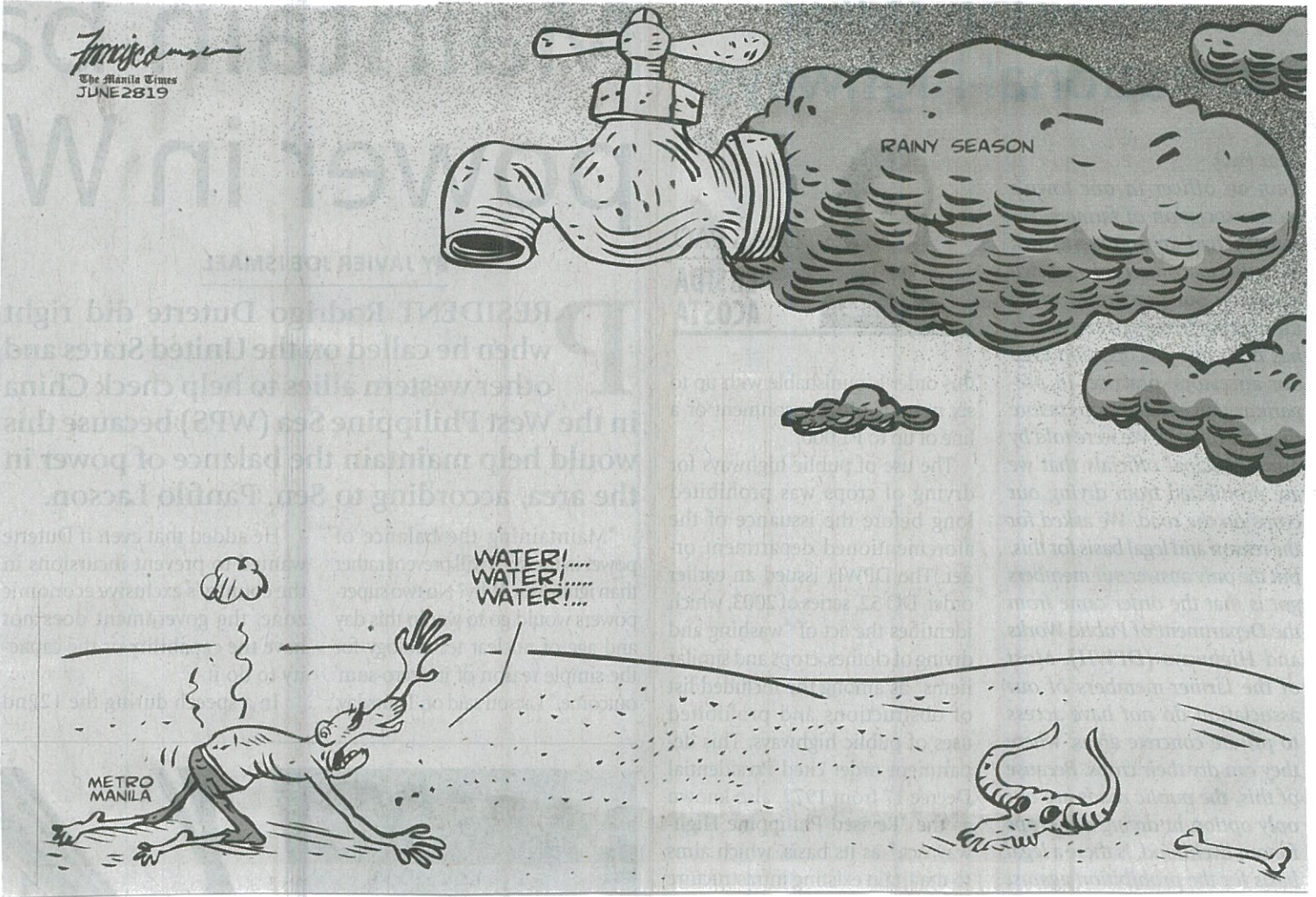
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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

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Plastic waste believed to have killed sea turtle in Negros town

By **GLAZYL MASCULINO**

BACOLOD CITY – Plastic waste is believed to have killed a sea turtle found in Valladolid, Negros Occidental, last Tuesday.

Capt. Joseth Catonina, town police chief, said a resident, Arnel Emplamado, found the dead two-foot wide and three-foot long turtle on the beach.

Catonina said the animal's carapace or shell and tail appeared to be dam-

aged.

Some residents reported finding plastic material coming out from the turtle's rectum.

The turtle may have ingested the plastic which cause its death, Catonina said.



Epektibong pangangalaga sa mga pawikan

NANAWAGAN ang mga opisyal ng Eastern Visayas (Region 8) sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na paigtingin ang mga hakbangin sa pangangalaga sa mga pawikan sa Southern Leyte, matapos lumabas ang mga ulat na madalas na nangingitlog ng mga pawikan sa ilang baybaying komunidad sa lalawigan sa nakalipas dalawang taon.

Sa pulong nitong Martes, sinabi ni Department of Tourism (DoT) Regional Director Karina Rosa Tiopes na isang dive resort sa Padre Burgos, Southern Leyte ang nagtangkang protektahan ang mga itlog ng mga pawikan, ngunit bigo ito dahil sa kawalan ng sapat na kaalaman.

"They want to help, but they don't know what to do. They placed the eggs inside styrofoam to shield them from humans and predators, but the survival rate was low. Personnel from the DENR just handed them a certificate instead of training them," pagbabahagi ni Tiopes sa mga opisyal ng DENR.

May 90 porsiyentong tiyansa na mabuhay ang mga itlog na hindi nagalaw ng tao o ibang hayop, habang nasa 25 porsiyento lamang o mas mababa pa ang success rate kung nagambala ito ng mga tao, ayon sa mga eksperto.

"They were told not to touch the eggs and the hatchlings, but sometimes they have to do it to protect them from birds and when they saw them crossing the highway. They need help and they cannot just watch these nature's treasure die," dagdag ni Tiopes.

Pagbabahagi ni DENR Eastern Visayas Regional Director Crizaldy Barcelo, nagbibigay na sila ng tulong sa mga komunidad na kinilala bilang mga marine turtle conservation sites.

"We have been implementing conservation projects in the area such as habitat surveys, information drive, rescue and rehabilitation, capacity building, and establishment of partnerships," tugon ni Barcelo sa mga opisyal.

May dalawang species ng pawikan o marine turtles ang matatagpuan sa mga barangay ng Sta. Sophia at Tangkaan sa Padre Burgos, Southern Leyte. Ang green turtle at hawksbill turtle.

Nagkapagtala ang DENR ng tatlong pagkakataon ng pangangitlog ng mga pawikan sa dalawang komunidad simula noong 2017. Nitong Hunyo 6 lang, nasa 200 itlog ng mga pawikan ang natagpuan sa Tangkaan.

Ayon naman kay Department of Science and Technology Regional Director Edgardo Esperancilla, dapat gayahin ng DENR ang magandang paraan na ginagawa ng ibang mga marine turtle conservation sites sa bansa, tulad ng Pink Island sa Zamboanga at Pawikan Conservation Center sa Bataan.



3 Koreans wanted for imported trash

TAGOLO-AN, Misamis Oriental: The Regional Trial Court (RTC) in Misamis Oriental has issued arrest warrants to three South Koreans suspected of importing 6,500 metric tons (MT) of garbage in 2018.

Bureau of Customs (BoC) collector John Simon of the sub-port of the Mindanao International Container Terminal (MICT) identified the South Koreans as Jae Ryang Cho, Sena Na and Chul Soo Cho aka Charles Cho.

Simon said the Customs bureau filed the charges against the three for violating various environmental laws under Republic Act 6969 with the smuggling of 6,500 MT of garbage from July 2018 to October 2018.

According to Simon, the BoC included some Filipinos serving as officials of the Verde Soco, the South Korean-owned "plastic" factory in the industrial site in Tagolo-an, Misamis Oriental.

Following the issuance of the warrants, Simon issued a public appeal for the immediate arrest of the South Koreans. He said a "hold departure" order must be issued against the three to prevent them from leaving the country.

"The South Koreans must be held responsible for bringing tons of garbage disguised as "recyclable materials" for the proposed "plastic" recycling firm in the industrial zone in the village of Sta. Cruz in Tagoloan," Simon said.

He said aside from penalizing them for the illegal shipment of garbage, they must also pay for the harm done.

The issue of the garbage dumping in Misamis Oriental was exposed by *the Manila Times* in July 2018 when residents in the coastal areas reported the presence of suspicious cargoes unloaded out of a foreign vessel at the MICT port.

Simon said the Customs bureau also seized shipments of waste materials known as processed engineered fuel from a town in Australia. These were consigned to a cement factory in Misamis Oriental. He said these are now at the MICT port pending results of Customs investigation. **CRIS DIAZ**



Canada tightens rules after garbage fiasco

By CAI U. ORDINARIO [@caiordinario](#)

THE Canadian government has given assurances that there won't be a repeat of its trash faux pas in the Philippines or any other country in the near—or distant—future.

The long-drawn squabble that tested bilateral relations between close friends Canada and the Philippines after containers of garbage were shipped to the latter had resulted in one thing: stricter rules regarding the export of these items/materials were imposed by his government, Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines John T. Holmes said at the BUSINESSMIRROR Coffee Club roundtable on Thursday.

Holmes said the 69 containers of garbage shipped to the Philippines in 2013 and 2014 are set to arrive at the Port of Vancouver on Saturday. This, he hoped, is the official end to this issue "forever."

"It's taken a while to get it reshipped in the region, and then once it arrives there, it will be inspected and taken into a facility and destroyed, and that will finally be the end of the trash issue forever," Holmes said.

A takeaway from the transocean row was that Ottawa changed the way it clears the export of such controversial cargo. "We've changed our regulations so that basically

any export of that item/material would have to not only require import and export permits, but the government concerned would have to agree," he said.

Holmes said that contrary to what has been projected in the media, the Canadian government was committed to addressing the issue even before the President set a deadline for Ottawa to take back the trash it shipped to Manila.

The Canadian ambassador told journalists from the BUSINESSMIRROR, *Philippines Graphic* magazine, *Pilipino Mirror*, *DWIZ* and CNN Philippines that one of the reasons the issue lingered were the technical requirements that needed to be addressed before the trash could be shipped back to Canada.

Holmes said that at one point, the shipping company would not even agree to bring back the trash to Canadian shores. Addressing these issues, he said, were done through the tireless efforts of both governments.

PHL counterparts lauded

"MY colleagues were following up on a

constant basis, and we were all on e-mail and messaging contact, and throughout this whole process the cooperation that we got from the Philippine authorities was outstanding," Holmes said.

"I don't want to single out particular people, but Secretary [Teodoro] Locsin did a fantastic job, his officials were very supportive. Secretary [Roy] Cimatu and his senior officials, we all were working with one objective in mind, and that was to get the trash out of here as fast as we could," he added.

In April, the President ordered the Department of Finance to return the hazardous waste back to Canada immediately or else he would do it himself.

Should Canada illegally ship hazardous trash to the Philippines anew, Duterte earlier said he would order the Bureau of Customs to not allow any ship from Canada to dock in Philippine ports.

The Chief Executive also issued a dire warning that he will declare war against Canada if they would not take action on the trash they dumped in the Philippines.



NGO claims Oceanagold mine halts operations

AUSTRALIAN MINER Oceanagold Corp. has suspended work at its Didipio mine, an environmental organization claimed, saying that the province of Nueva Vizcaya ordered a halt to operations.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), which regulates the mining industry, said the company, whose Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) expired on June 20, can still validly operate since its renewal application was submitted on time and is being processed.

The company had not responded to requests for comment at deadline time. Attempts to contact the Nueva Vizcaya government were hindered by a non-functioning telephone line.

Oceanagold, which is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, had made no disclosure to the ASX at deadline time.

In a statement, environment group Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE) claimed that Nueva Vizcaya Governor Carlos M. Padilla sought the suspension of the company's operations in Barangay Didipio, Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya.

Kalikasan PNE claimed mining operations were halted at 6:48 AM on Wednesday. It did not explain how it got the information.

Didipio is a high-grade underground gold and copper mine, which started commercial production as an open pit operation in 2013. It transitioned to underground operation in 2016, with production commencing early 2017.

The group claims that the mine degrades the forests and rivers around Kasibu.

Oceanagold has said previously that it has been working with the government to renew its FTAA, and was permitted to continue operations during the process.

MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said the company can operate since it was able to file for renewal before expiration of its FTAA, which is now with the Office of the President (OP).

"Our position is Oceana is not suspended because it was able to file a renewal application prior to the expiry. Section 18, Chapter 3, Book 7 of the Administrative Code of 1987 provides that the license of Oceana does not expire until there is a determination of the agency concerned which is the OP," he said in a text message to *BusinessWorld*.

He said that he has not been informed of any suspension.

"The renewal application was filed in 2018 prior to its expiry last June 20 this year. Environment Secretary (Roy A.) Cimatu has favorably endorsed the renewal application," he added. — **Vincent Mariel P. Galang**



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MINERALS ACCOUNTING Government agencies accountable for monitoring responsible mining in the Philippines have chosen Taganito Mining Corp. (TMC) as the first mining company to be part of the government's pilot project referred to as "Minerals Accounting." The objective of this project is to do an accounting of the country's mineral resources in order for the government to draft a road map that will effectively define the economic characteristics of the mining industry and other related industries.

TMC, a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), with mining operations in Claver, Surigao del Norte, is the first company that the group is engaging for relevant data for this important economic project. The delegation, headed by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), attended a detailed tour of the TMC mine site, as well as the plant site of THPAL, a minerals processing plant in Taganito. The delegation also had representatives from the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Mines and Geosciences Bureau.



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REGIONS

Baguio mourns its eco-champions

BAGUIO CITY—The summer capital this week lost two pillars in the fight to protect Baguio's environment. Bishop Emeritus Carlito Cenzon, 79, who led the campaign to preserve the city's pine forests, died on Wednesday. The following day, journalist Ramon Dacawi, who led a campaign teaching students the importance of the city's Busol watershed, died after a lingering ailment at the age of 69. —STORY BY VINCENT CABREZA

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Baguio mourns environment champions



ECO WARRIORS In this photo taken in 2006, Bishop Emeritus Carlito Cenzone (left) and journalist Ramon Dacawi meet with children visiting the Baguio Cathedral. Cenzone and Dacawi, who are among the leading environmental advocates in the summer capital, died a day apart this week. —JOEL ARTHUR TIBALDO/CONTRIBUTOR

BAGUIO CITY—A religious leader, who fought to preserve Baguio's pine trees, and a former newsman who taught schoolchildren to love the city's forests, have died this week.

Bishop Emeritus Carlito Cenzone, 79, died on Wednesday and will be buried at Congregatio Immaculati Cordis Mariae (Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary) cemetery here on July 6, according to the Diocese of Baguio where he served as bishop until his retirement in 2017.

Church builder

He and Lingayen-Dagupan Bishop Socrates Villegas initiated the Supreme Court petition that led to a permanent environmental protection order being granted over the Sto. Tomas forest reserve.



Bishop Cenzone fought for the protection of Baguio's pine cover and denounced gambling

Cenzone fought for the protection of Baguio's pine cover and denounced both illegal and state-run gambling, usually through street marches with members of ecumenical organizations and elementary and high school students.

He also initiated fundraising

projects, like an annual golf tournament, to build churches in his diocese and to fence Baguio's Burnham Park.

He was involved in the campaign to spare the Sto. Tomas forest from an illegal road construction that affected Baguio's water supply as well as from informal settlers in the area.

At the time, Sto. Tomas had been drawing tourists because one of its communities served as the fictitious "Sitio La Presa" of a popular soap opera.

Cenzone's body will be taken to the St. William's Cathedral in Tabuk City, Kalinga province, where he served as bishop from 1992 to 2002. Public viewing is scheduled on July 1 and 2 before the body will be taken to the Baguio Cathedral on July 3 where it will stay until interment.

On Thursday, veteran newsman and retired Baguio information officer Ramon Dacawi died after a lingering ailment. He was 69.

Dacawi used to take schoolchildren through the civic activity, called "EcoWalk," to the Busol watershed at the outskirts of the city where they were taught about the benefits of the forest and where they planted trees.

He worked with Cenzone's predecessor, former Baguio Bishop Ernesto Salgado, who helped form the Baguio Regreening Movement.

Before he died, Dacawi campaigned for free dialysis treatment under the government's health care program. He left behind his wife, Rebecca, and children Johan and Veronica. —VINCENT CABREZA INQ



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HEEDING POPE'S CALL

PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT, HELPING POOR TOP PRIORITY
OF NEW BUTUAN BISHOP

BUTUAN CITY—Catholic Bishop Cosme Damian Almedilla assumed the leadership of the Diocese of Butuan on Tuesday with a vow to follow Pope Francis' call to protect the environment and to serve the poor.

"Although I need to study and assess several aspects as to the direction we will take, our advocacy will stay, especially that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has emphasized our

call toward the care for the poor and our ecology," said Almedilla on the eve of his ordination at the St. Joseph Cathedral here.

Almedilla had served a parish in Talibon town, Bohol province for 17 years before he was named Butuan bishop in March. Before his Bohol assignment, he served in the Immaculate Conception parish church in Wao town, Lanao del Sur province, where the church's campaign to protect

the environment had brought threats to their lives.

Fighting loggers

He said a fellow priest, Fr. Nerilito Satur, known as the "green priest" and a deputized forest ranger, was killed in an ambush on Oct. 14, 1991 at Barangay Guinoyoran in Valencia, Bukidnon. He said Satur's murder was linked to the priest's campaign against illegal logging.

"When [Satur] was murdered, our lives were endangered. We received more death threats. I acted like Peter who ran away upon seeing the awful fate of the Master, acting no more than a hireling rather than a faithful shepherd to his flock. Out of fear, I ended up asking to be [transferred] from the Diocese of Malaybalay (Bukidnon), and returned to my home diocese in Talibon in 2002," he said.

"But after serving 17 years in Talibon, here comes the moment of truth, of finding myself being sent back to Mindanao," Almedilla said.

Third bishop

Almedilla is the third bishop to serve the Diocese of Butuan, which has 62 parishes and an estimated 1.5 million Roman Catholics in the provinces of Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur.

He succeeded Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos, who served from 1995 until his death on Oct. 21, 2017. Butuan's first bishop, Carmelo Morelos, served the diocese from 1967 to 1994.

Archbishop Antonio Ledesma of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro served as the apostolic administrator of the Butuan diocese after Pueblos died. —ERWIN MASCARIÑAS INQ



15 more Sino restos, stores shut down

Parañaque intensifies crackdown on illegal establishments

By Dexter Cabalza
@dexcabalzaINQ

Fifteen more Chinese restaurants and stores have been padlocked in the past two days in Parañaque as the local government intensified its crackdown on establishments operating illegally in the city.

This brought to 33 the number of Chinese-owned or -managed establishments shuttered by the city's Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO) since June 20, which found them to be operating without the necessary business permits.

"Almost all of these business establishments had no necessary requirements from the city government, local health office, and even from the Bureau of Fire Protection since they started their operation last year," said Melanie Soriano-Malaya, BPLO chief.

They also violated city ordinances on sanitation code and septage management, and on foreign signages.

A number of Chinese nationals were also working as cooks, waitresses and staff personnel without valid working permits and visas.

On Wednesday, city officials

led by Malaya served closure orders to seven more businesses registered to Chinese nationals or hiring Chinese nationals for blue-collar jobs in Barangay Tambo.

These are Zan Cuo Restaurant (registered to Rex Sangga Dadezon), Ja Borja Restaurant, Aimai Minimart (owned by Jessica Frias), Golden Spring Restaurant (registered to Wilbert Ong), Guilin Noodle House (registered to Sadie Wright), Nava Restaurant and Mountain Fire BBQ Restaurant (owned by Regine Umipig).

In nearby Barangay Baclaran, two more Chinese-only establishments—All Things Supermart (owned by Robert Ong) and Tengmeng Mini Mart (owned by Lelybeth Buitizon)—were closed.

Tambo and Baclaran, situated northwest of the city, are booming centers of operations of Pogo (Philippine offshore gaming operators) companies employing Chinese nationals.

Also on Wednesday, the BPLO shut down six Chinese businesses inside the upscale Multinational Village of Barangay Moonwalk.

These were Shangyin Restaurant (operated by James Wong), YY Shabu Shabu and Grill (regis-

tered to Zhao Wie), Sticklove Restaurant (registered to Maria Luisa Timon), Parkson Mart (registered to Jackie Chan), LSSA Entrance Food Mart (operated by Carolyn Techeco), and All Things Supermart (named to Robert Ong).

Mayor Edwin Olivarez said the operations were not meant to single out Chinese establishments.

"This will be a citywide crackdown against erring foreign-owned restaurants and stores. Promise, no *ningas kugon*," Olivarez said in a statement.

He also learned that the majority of the Chinese establishments were using Filipino dummies.

The mayor will summon the chairs of three barangays—Jun Zaide of Baclaran, Jennifer Quizon of Tambo, and Roberto Cruz Alano of Moonwalk—next week to explain why the businesses were allowed to be put up.

"[Illegal businesses] should be stopped this early so this could not spread to other barangays in the city. They are paying zero taxes to the city and [their presence] ... will not benefit the residents of Parañaque," Olivarez said. —WITH A REPORT FROM AIZAM

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UP scientists report poor condition of reefs in WPS

By **JANVIC MATEO**

Marine scientists from the University of the Philippines have discovered the poor condition of coral reefs in the West Philippine Sea, highlighting the need for better management and conservation efforts in the region.

Authored by scientists from the UP Marine Science Institute (MSI), the paper – published this week in the *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom* – revealed that coral reefs in the West Philippine Sea have low abundance and diversity of corals

and fish species.

It noted that deeper areas of the reefs, which are presumed to be buffered from disturbances, showed similar composition to that of shallow water reefs, suggesting that these may also be vulnerable to human activities.

“The West Philippine Sea is a biodiversity hotspot and known source of fish and corals for reefs in surrounding countries,” the MSI said in an article published on the university’s website.

“With the declining condition of reefs in the West Philippine Sea, the abundance and

diversity of fish and corals in other reefs could also be affected. This calls for regional efforts for better management and conservation of the area,” it added.

The study, which was conducted last year, sampled the habitat and abundance of fish in deep coral reefs in Luzon Strait, Palawan and four islands on the Kalayaan Group of Islands.

It aims to provide a clearer picture of the biodiversity in the deeper portions of the West Philippine Sea, with the researchers noting that most biodiversity surveys in the region are confined to shallow

water reefs.

“Fishing efforts may have contributed to among-location differences as the highly exploited location had the lowest fish biomass,” read the paper.

“The results imply that local-scale factors and anthropogenic disturbances probably dampen across-depth structuring in coral genera and fish species assemblages,” it added.

The paper was authored by UP scientists Timothy Joseph Quimpo, Patrick Cabaitan, Kevin Thomas Go, Edwin Dumalagan, Cesar Villanoy and Fernando Siringan.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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GCash Forest eyes 365 thousand trees planted in 365 days

Filipinos who want to contribute to environmental preservation can now conveniently use an innovative mobile phone app to help plant trees and increase the Philippines' forest cover.

GCash is introducing a "green" feature on the app called GCash Forest, which lets subscribers plant virtual trees that will have real-life counterparts. By the end of 365 days, GCash Forest aims to plant 365 thousand trees with the help of GCash subscribers.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Forest Management Bureau (FMB), the Philippines is losing 47,000 hectares of forest cover every year. The FMB also reported the need to rehabilitate 1.2 million hectares of forest lands by 2022 to prevent landslides, ensure water availability, and preserve biodiversity.

"GCash Forest is about making it easier, more convenient, and even

rewarding for everyone to take care of our environment for the benefit of future generations," said Mynt CEO Anthony Thomas.

To implement its tree-planting initiatives, GCash Forest partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN).

The DENR will provide land resources in Ipo Watershed, an essential component of the Angat-Umiray-Ipo watersheds system supplying 98 percent of Metro Manila's water. WWF will be providing trees and manpower while BIOFIN will provide expertise on monitoring.



(From left) Chris Manguera, Mynt Chief Marketing Officer and Head of Marketing and App Product; Joel Palma, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines President and Chief Executive Officer; Anthony Thomas, Mynt President and Chief Executive Officer; Titon Mitra, United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative to the Philippines; and Reyner Villaseñor, GCash Vice President for Corporate Communications.



Nestlé, Valenzuela City launch May Balik sa Plastik!

NESTLÉ Philippines, the city government of Valenzuela, the Department of Education in the city and Green Antz Builders Inc. launched last June 10 a city-wide pilot program to recover waste laminates such as post-consumer sachets and used beverage cartons.

Dubbed May Balik! Sa Plastik!, the program aims to decrease the amount of waste laminates and used beverage cartons in the Valenzuela landfill and transfer station by sorting and collecting them for recycling or upcycling, or co-processing in cement kilns.

The program is the first city-specific residual waste collection program by Nestle Philippines and is the first program of its kind in the country involving an entire city in the recovery of waste laminates and used beverage cartons.

The program's three components are: public school-based collection of waste laminates and used

beverage cartons; barangay-based collection of waste laminates and used beverage cartons; and information, education and communication (IEC) activities to drive awareness and behavior change.

Incentives for participating in the program are given to public school students who will be eligible to participate in weekly raffles with gift checks as prizes; and another for city street sweepers who will receive Nestlé products.

Green Antz, an innovative social enterprise that manufactures alternative construction materials such as eco-bricks incorporating waste plastic laminates, will collect the plastic wastes from the schools and barangays. A portion of the wastes will be used by Green Antz in its eco-brick hubs while the bulk will go to Republic Cement for co-processing in its cement kilns. Nestlé has entered into a separate agreement with Republic Cement



Community effort. Valenzuela City residents learn more about the campaign during the program's launch.

for the co-processing of qualified wastes.

DepEd Valenzuela will assign and gather coordinators per school to train them. The coordinators will then cascade the program.

In Valenzuela, the residuals such

as laminates, which currently have no value, are hauled to a landfill. May Balik! Sa Plastik!, to be managed by the city government's Public Sanitation and Cleanliness Group, will impart value to such wastes.



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Save Manila Bay efforts get boost thru Clean-Up run

EFFORTS to save Manila Bay continue to get a big boost as Olympic Village outlets at Robinsons Forum, Festival Mall, and Farmers Plaza, as well as the registration center at the MBC-DZRH lobby in Pasay City, open their offices for registration for the Manila Bay Clean-Up Run on July 7.

Open to all interested participants in the men's and women's divisions,

the event will feature races in the 3K, 5K, 10K, and 21K divisions.

The event, a project of Manila Broadcasting Company and Star City, is meant to support efforts to clean marine and coastal resources under the umbrella program of Land Bank and various establishments along Manila Bay which

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SAVE

comprise the Sunset Partnership.

Since 2011, funds generated by the fun run have been used to institute systematic long-term solutions to environmental sanitation problems besetting the country's coastal resources and tributaries

The Manila Bay Clean-up Run is the prelude to the 80th anniversary celebration of MBC's flagship radio station DZRH, the Philippines' oldest surviving radio network. For inquiries, log onto the official Facebook page of the Manila Bay Clean-Up Run, or call Runners Link at 0926-2052787.



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ADB Europe @ADB_Europe
Clean air action plans, coupled with strong environmental governance, and economic incentives, are essential to making cities liveable.





BEYOND BRUSHSTROKES MARIA VICTORIA RUFINO

“Being a *kapwa* means that I accord you respect... Thus, ‘Earth is Our *Kapwa*’ wishes to convey that humanity and the earth are connected, and we treat the earth with respect,”

Conference looks at treating the Earth as our *kapwa*

Mother Earth is a reflection of humanity’s consciousness — about ourselves and our common home. What is our consciousness about nature? How do we feel about the environment?

“The Carl Jung Circle Center (CJCC) is concerned with the person’s psyche and soul, the wholeness of who we are. In our appreciation of our deep self, we find our connection with nature,” explained Rose Marie Yenko, CJCC chair emeritus, a clinical psychologist and organizational development expert.

Thus, we focus on dimensions of caring for the earth as the Filipino’s “*kapwa*” (fellow-creature) and as a way of caring for one’s self at a conference on July 13 at the Ateneo Rockwell Auditorium. (To attend the conference, register at jungphilippines@yahoo.com.)

The climate crisis is happening. There will be an expected rise in the world’s temperature of 1.5° Centigrade by 2030. This increase will have a devastating effect on life. So far, there has been an increase of 1.15° C (in 2016) above the average temperature of 1850-1900. We already feel the heat in our daily lives. We see data and pictures about the warming of the oceans, the bleaching and dying of coral reefs, the melting of the glaciers, the floods and droughts, the increase in climate-induced poverty.

A multi-disciplinary array of speakers will be at the conference, called “Earth is Our *Kapwa*.”

“[*Kapwa*] is a deep Filipino word that says that you and I are connected, that I recognize and respect you as a person, equal to my ‘human-ness,’ across differences of race, status, gender, position, faith,” said Ms. Yenko.

“Being a *kapwa* means that I accord you respect... Thus, ‘Earth is Our *Kapwa*’ wishes to convey that humanity and the earth are connected, and we treat the earth with respect,” she added.

Kathrin de Guia, in her book, *Kapwa, the Self in the other*, writes about Ver Enriquez’s work where “*kapwa*” is the Filipino’s core value of embracing a concept of a shared life where “respect and consideration for the other is extended to all beings.” These are the animals, plants, trees, springs, rocks, the living planet and the spirit worlds.

“The conference focuses on the vital connections of the Filipino to his roots, with its myriad aspects, to draw attention to the web of his nourishment and survival amid today’s challenges,” said Ms. Yenko.

There will be an overview of the climate change realities.

Briony Eales, environmental and climate law consultant tackles “Our Planet is suffering: The Climate Crisis.” “Climate change is here and it could lead to the collapse of civilizations and extinction of much of the natural world. What is causing climate change in the 21st century? And what needs to be done?”

Darwin Flores, Trek Convenor of Palanan Co Sierra Madre Trek, presents “A Great Forest in the Sierra Madre” talk on the great forest in the Sierra Madre and provides updates on advocacy work for the Marikina Watershed to help ensure water for Metro Manila in the coming decades. Mr. Flores is Smart Communications Inc. vice-president for community partnerships.

Meanwhile, Dr. Rene Samaniego, Secretary for Education and Training of the ASEAN Federation of Psychiatric Associations, will cover historical constructs, current conditions, and future directions of our country’s mental health as appreciated from the paradigm of the Filipino psyche. “As the psyche is essentially soul, the discourse will further explore the timeless link between these vital strands, generating reflection and mindful connection of our endless preoccupation with the ‘externals’ (entertainment, politics, and the weather) and how these are unconsciously played out from both our individual and collective life force,” he said.

Charo Santos-Concio, multi-awarded actress and former CEO of ABS-CBN, shares her insights on the themes on the Filipino man, woman, and family that have emerged across 28 years of the TV drama anthology *Maalala Mo Kaya* which she hosts. She will share life lessons learned in the field, with a unique perspective.

Acclaimed stage performer Monique Wilson’s talk is on harnessing women’s energies for change. She is executive director of the organization One Billion Rising.

Clinical psychologist and CJCC chairperson Dr. Ma. Teresa Gustilo-Villasor will talk on “Grit in the Filipino Soul.” Recent Western research has zeroed in on “grit [as being] predictive of academic, work and life successes and how the Western concept of grit is reflected in the Filipino soul,” she said.

Meanwhile, Beth Morales, a Jungian sand play therapist, presents “soul metrics.” Johanna Garcia, alternative healer, health coach, and founder of Real Girl Toy Kitchen Foods, will talk about “Starting a Conversation: On Soul Metrics.”

The finale song of the conference is from the CJCC-produced play *Halo-Halo Tayo: The Delicious and Colorfully Complex Filipino Soul*. The play, directed by educator and CJCC vice-president Sonia Roco and written by Ruby Villavicencio Paurom, is anchored on the psychology framework developed by Ms. Yenko, entitled “Gifts in the Filipino Psyche.”

Sarah Queblatin, co-founder and executive director of Green Relief Initiative, will talk on “Soil, Soul, Story,” on the experience of building regenerative communities in the field.

How can we restore wholeness in ecosystems in need of collective healing?

“Through creative tools in documenting local biodiversity and indigenous earth wisdom as living art and maps, we identify the potential for food security, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, and ecosystem restoration,” she said.

The conference will be a learning inspiring experience that should teach us to be more mindful about our behavior and the environment. ■

MARIA VICTORIA RUFINO is an artist, writer and businesswoman. She is president and executive producer of Maverick Productions.
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CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMS

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JUNE 28, 2019

**WE DON'T INHERIT THE EARTH
FROM OUR ANCESTORS, BUT
BORROW IT FROM OUR GRANDCHILDREN!**

EDITORIAL



Editorial

What the law says on EEZ rights, jurisdiction of states

WE deem it useful as a public service to quote here directly the pertinent provisions on the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) rights and State jurisdiction under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos). Reading carefully the following provisions should help us put the recent events in the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) in proper perspective.

The document provides the following:

Article 55

Specific legal regime of the exclusive economic zone

The exclusive economic zone is an area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea, subject to the specific legal regime established in this Part, under which the rights and jurisdiction of the coastal State and the rights and freedoms of other States are governed by the relevant provisions of this Convention.

Article 56

Rights, jurisdiction and duties of the coastal State in the exclusive economic zone

1. *In the exclusive economic zone, the coastal State has:*

(a) *sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the waters superjacent to the seabed and of the seabed and its subsoil, and with regard to other activities for the economic exploitation and exploration of the zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents and winds;*

(b) *jurisdiction as provided for in the relevant provisions of this Convention with regard to:*

- (i) *the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures;*
- (ii) *marine scientific research;*
- (iii) *the protection and preservation of the marine environment;*
- (c) *other rights and duties provided for in this Convention.*

2. *In exercising its rights and performing its duties under this Convention in the exclusive economic zone, the coastal State shall have due regard to the rights and duties of other States and shall act in a manner compatible with the provisions of this Convention.*

3. *The rights set out in this article with respect to the seabed and subsoil shall be exercised in accordance with Part VI.*

Article 57

Breadth of the exclusive economic zone

The exclusive economic zone shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

Article 58

Rights and duties of other States in the exclusive economic zone

1. *In the exclusive economic zone, all States, whether coastal or land-locked, enjoy, subject to the relevant provisions of this Convention, the freedoms referred to in article 87 of navigation and overflight and of the laying of submarine cables and pipelines, and other internationally lawful uses of the sea related to these freedoms, such as those associated with the operation of ships, aircraft and submarine cables and pipelines, and compatible with the other provisions of this Convention.*

Article 60

Artificial islands, installations and structures in the exclusive economic zone

1. *In the exclusive economic zone, the coastal State shall have the exclusive right to construct and to authorize and regulate the construction, operation and use of:*

(a) *artificial islands;*

(b) *installations and structures for the purposes provided for in article 56 and other economic purposes;*

(c) *installations and structures which may interfere with the exercise of the rights of the coastal State in the zone.*

2. *The coastal State shall have exclusive jurisdiction over such artificial islands, installations and structures, including jurisdiction with regard to customs, fiscal, health, safety and immigration laws and regulations.*

Both the Philippines and China are signatories to Unclos.

In the context of the recent Reed (Recto) bank controversy, the Philippines is the denoted "coastal State." China is one of "the other States."

The Philippines, therefore, has sovereign rights to explore and exploit the Reed bank.

Unclos, however, does not address State sovereignty over the EEZ.