

01 AUG 2019

DATE : _____

DAY : Thursday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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TITLE:

DENR eyes Panay as bamboo production hub

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it is eyeing Panay Island as the center for bamboo production in the country.

As part of the DENR's commitment to the National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development which recently held a summit in Iloilo City, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said that with Panay Island being naturally abundant with bamboo, he would "transform it as the center for bamboo production and make it the DENR's major contribution to the NCI-SRD."

"We will adopt the latest technology in producing lumber and timber out of bamboo stands. This can usher in inclusive development in the island and provide income and livelihood not only to the marginal farmers, and promote Panay as the country's 'bamboo capital,'" he said.

The environment chief directed DENR Western Visayas regional executive director Francisco Milla Jr. to conduct an inventory of all existing bamboo plantations on the island, and to fast-track the establishment of bamboo processing plants that would produce engineered bamboo products.

He also instructed Milla to plant bamboo in identified denuded areas around the island.

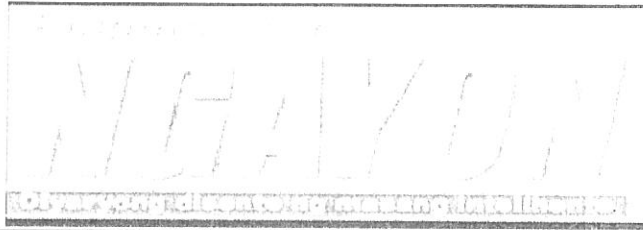
The DENR in Western Visayas had initially identified 60 hectares for the propagation of bamboo in Panay, where more than 6,100 hectares of plantation currently exist.

The agency has committed to plant 13,500 hectares of industrial bamboo species such as bamboo *tinik*, giant *buho*, *bayog* and *bolo* in 2020.

To achieve this, some P10 million has been initially earmarked in the 2019 budget for the production of planting materials and capacity building of farmers.

Bamboo is envisioned as one way to address the country's wood requirements as an alternative for high-value forest products. It has been included as selected species to use for reforestation activities under the government's National Greening Program (NGP).

Under the NGP, farmers would be capacitated on scientific methods of harvesting bamboo. They would be entitled to regular salaries while caring for bamboo plantations prior to harvest season.



Kawayan, panlaban sa climate change

ALAM n'yo ba na may madaling solusyon pala para malutas o mapabagal man lang ang lumulubhang problema sa climate change? Ito ay ang pagtatanim ng kawayan. Ikinukonsidera ito ng mga bansang kasapi sa Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) na magdaraos ng 1st ASEAN Bamboo Congress mula Agosto 12-16, 2019 sa Iloilo City.

Maaaring naririnig na natin ang pagbabago sa klima ng daigdig Pero hindi natin siniseryoso. Ngunit talagang ito ay tunay at nakababahala. Sa matagal na panahon, ito ay isang isyu na bumabagabag sa mga pamahalaan

dahil nakakaapekto sa buhay ng tao, ekonomiya at kapaligiran. Kaya sa maraming pandaigdig na kompetensya, palaging tampok ang tungkol sa climate change dahil kung hindi maaaksyunan, puwedeng ito ang tumapos sa daigdig.

Ang patuloy na pagtaas sa average global temperature ay indikasyon nang pagiging seryoso ng problemang ito para sa lahat ng bansa. Si Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu ang magbubukas sa pagtitipon ng mga kasapi sa ASEAN na dadaluhan din ng mga kinatawan mula sa mga bansa sa labas ng rehiyon. Ayon sa Global Climate Risk Index, kasama ang Pilipinas sa mga nangungunang bansa na malubhang apektado ng climate change. Ang iba ay ang Myanmar, Thailand at Vietnam mula 1998 hanggang 2017.

Hindi nga ba kapansin-pansin na kahit tag-ulan na, kapag walang ulan ay maalinsangan pa rin at matindi ang sikat ng araw? Hindi naman ganyan dati.

Sa matagal na panahon, napatunayan na ang kawayan ay mabisa sa pagsupil sa masamang epekto
(Sundan sa pahina 5)

AKSYON NGAYON

... Mula pahina 4

ng climate change kaya hinihikayat ang mga bansa na magtanim nito. Mainam umano itong substitute sa mga punongkahoy na napuputol sa mga kagubatan at kabundukan. Mabisa raw ito sa paglilinis ng hangin sa carbon emission na sanhi ng air pollution. Epektibo rin daw sa pagpigil ng baha dahil sa absorptive ability nito sa bumubuhos na ulan.

Potensyal din itong makalilikha ng mga trabaho sa paggawa ng mga handicraft na yari sa kawayan. Kahit putulin nang putulin, mabilis tumubo ito hindi kagaya ng mga punongkahoy na inaabot ng maraming taon bago tumubo uli.

Determinado umano ang mga bansa sa rehiyon na magsama-sama sa pagpigil sa problema ng cli-

mate change na tila hindi man lang pinapansin ng iba. Ang pagbabawas sa tinatawag na greenhouse

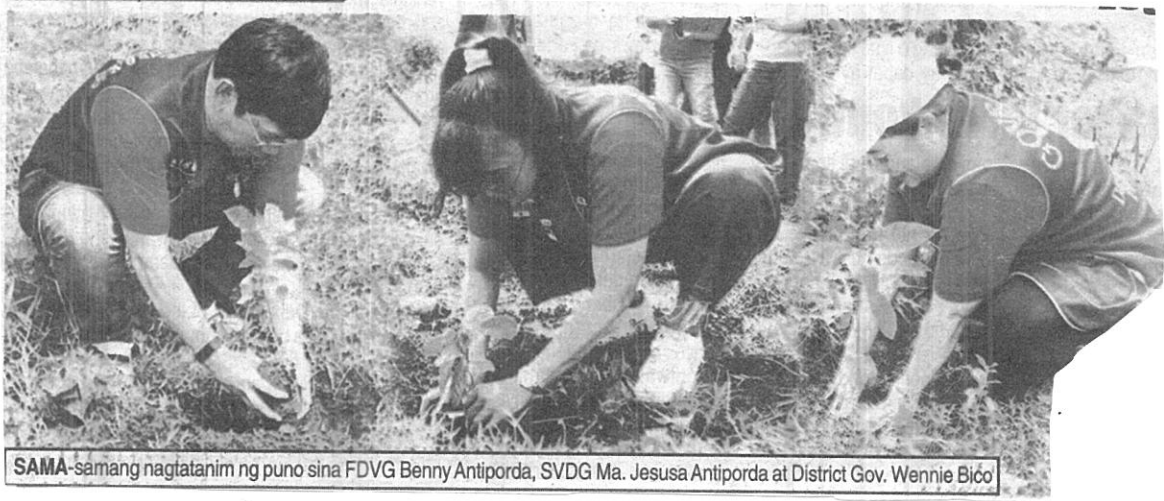
emission ay isang problemang dapat harapin ng may pagkakaisa at determinasyon.



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SAMA-samang nagtatanim ng puno sina FDVG Benny Antiporda, SVDG Ma. Jesusa Antiporda at District Gov. Wennie Bico

PAGSAGIP SA INANG KALIKASAN

PAGE 2

Legacy ng Lions Clubs International PAGSAGIP SA INANG KALIKASAN

ITINUTURING nang legacy ng Lions Clubs International ang patuloy na pagsagip sa kapaligiran at kaisa sa tungkulin at responsibilidad na ito ang mga opisyal at miyembro ng LCI sa buong mundo.

Bunsod nito, nagsama-sama ang matataas na opisyal ng District 301-A2 sa pamumuno nina District Governor Wennie B. Bico, 3PMJF, DENR Usec. at First Vice Dis-

trict Gov. Benny Antiporda at Second Vice District Gov. Ma. Jesusa Antiporda na kapwa kinatawan din ng Pasay City Host MJF Lions Club para sa naturang proyekto at dumayo pa sa Albay para isakatuparan ang legasiyang ito.

Isinagawa ang tree planting at tree care project sa halos walang kapuno-puno, masukal at maputik na

lugar sa Brgy. San Andres, Sto. Domingo, Albay.

Ang naturang community-based service activity ang tugon ng club sa emergency call ng Duterte administrasyon na tumulong sa misyon na naglalayong sagipin ang Inang Kalikasan.

Subalit pinakamahalaga sa lahat ang makapagkaloob ng mahalagang legacy project

sa isang napiling komunidad na siyang nais maisakatuparan ng Lions Clubs International.

Katuwang ni Gov. Bico sa pagsasakatuparan ng naturang proyekto ang iba pang matataas na opisyal ng Legazpi City 'Host' MJF Lions Club sa pamumuno ni Club President Florencio Bacatang, Region 7 Region Chair Ed Barrios, Zone 3 Zone Chair Charito Estillomo.



Angat water level up

DIVINA NOVA JOY DELA CRUZ

THE water level at Angat Dam has risen due to monsoon rains but the water allocation for Metro Manila has not increased, according to the National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services (Pagasa) recorded the water level at Angat at 164.99

meters on Wednesday, 5 meters above its 160-meter critical low level.

But it is still 15 meters below the 180-meter minimum operating level and 47 meters below the high water level of 212 meters.

Given this development, NWRB Director Seville David Jr. said the water allocations for Metro Manila would be maintained at 36 cubic me-

ters per second for the month of August.

Pagasa Climate Monitoring and Prediction chief Analiza Solis previously said Angat might reach the 180-meter level in September, taking into account the amount of rainfall expected in the area and the daily water release from the dam.

Other dams supplying Metro Manila also remain below

their respective normal high water levels. The level at La Mesa Dam was 74.28 meters on Wednesday, still below its 80.15 normal high level. Ipo Dam's level dropped to 100.83 meters, which is slightly below its normal high level of 101 meters.

Other dams in Luzon have increased slightly but are still below their respective high water levels.

On Wednesday, Ambuklao

Dam was at 746.33 meters, Binda Dam was at 572.78 meters, San Roque Dam was at 231.64 meters, Pantabangan Dam was at 189.98 meters, and Magat Dam was at 185.83 meters.

Normal high water levels for these dams are 752 meters for Ambuklao, 575 meters for Binda, 280 meters for San Roque, 216 meters for Pantabangan and 190 meters for Magat.



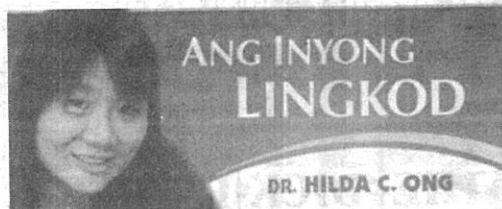
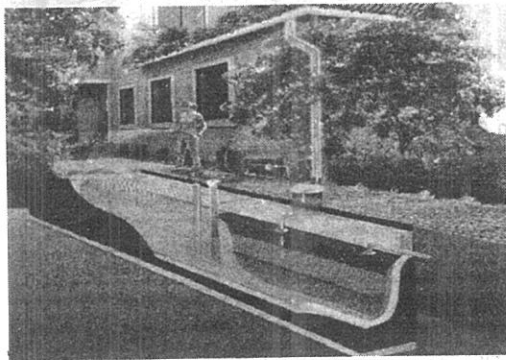
SAMANTALAHIN ANG MALALAKAS NA PAG-ULAN MAG-IMPOK NG TUBIG-ULAN

OPISYAL nang nagsimula ang panahon ng Habagat (monsoon rains) sa ating bansa. Nito lamang nakaraang Linggo, halos walang tigil ang naging pagbuhos ng ulan kaya naman palagiang suspended ang mga klase sa mga antas ng paaralan. Bagamat perwisyo para sa iba ang hatid ng malalakas na pag-ulan, makabubuti rin naman ito dahil wala tayong aalalahanin sa suplay ng tubig.

Noong nakaraang buwan ng Hunyo at Hulyo, patuloy ang pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam kaya kinakailangan ipatupad ng

dalawang concessionaires: Maynilad Water at Manila Water ang 'rotational water service interruptions' upang matiyak na magkakaroon ng suplay ng tubig, kahit na sa loob ng ilang oras araw-araw.

Ayon kay Dr. Seville David, Jr. Executive Director ng NWRB, ang lebel ng tubig as of July 31, 8:00am ay nasa 164.48, tumaas ng bahagyang dahil madalas na ang pagbuhos ng ulan sa may paligid ng Angat Dam, ngunit, hindi pa rin sapat. Kailangang patuloy ang pagtitipid sa paggamit ng tubig hanggang sa umabot ng 212 normal high water level



ANG INYONG LINGKOD

DR. HILDA C. ONG

(NHWL).

Tumaas man nang bahagya ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam, ipinatutupad pa rin ng NWRB ang 36cms metro kubiko bawat segundo alokasyon para sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS),

Kung sakali umabot na sa 180cms ang lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam, ang mungkahin ng inyong lingkod sa NWRB, kung maaaring panatilihin ang kasalukuyan alokasyon na 36cms hanggang sa malampasan ang 212 NHWL. Huwag muna ibalik ang dating 46cms full allocation.

May payo si David sa mga tahanan at industriya, dapat anilang samantalahin ang malalakas na pag-ulan sa pamamagitan ng pag-iimpok nito sa proseso ng "Rain Harvesting" kung saan ang tubig ulan ay kinukolekta at puwedeng gamitin sa pagdilig ng mga pananim, irigasyon, malalaking industriya, at maging sa mga tahanan. Malaking katipiran dahil hindi kayo gumagamit ng treated water, liliit ang baba-

yan sa Manila Water o Maynilad Water.

Sa mga malalaking industriya ay mayroon silang simpleng teknolohiyang ginagamit para makolekta ang lahat ng ulang bumabagsak mula sa kalangitan. Sa ating mga tahanan, simple lamang ang puwedeng gawin. Kung mayroon tayong mga drums, linisin itong mabuti, siguraduhin na may pantakip dito at ilagay ito sa may alulod kung saan bulto kung bumuhos ang tubig-ulan. Palipasin muna ang limang minuto bago mag-simulang tipunin ang tubig para masiguradong ang anumang dumi sa bubungan ng bahay ay naanod muna.

(Photo credit to Pinterest)

TANGKILIKIN ang fan page ni **AGARANG SERBISYO LADY** sa Facebook: **TV RADIO HILDA ONG** at YouTube: **HILDA ONG** at makinig sa DWIZ 882 (Tuesday 5:30PM-7:00PM) at Veritas 846kHz (Monday 1:00 PM-3:00PM)



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Saving a critical wetland to promote ecotourism

HAVEN IN THE METRO

Go Green and use email:
EnvironmentMB@gmail.com

EGRETS FLY OVER THE LPPCHEA
- There are about 80 bird species documented in the 175-hectare area. Photo below: Word Cup Journalism participants gather in the conference area for an ecology education lecture and press briefing courtesy of the DENR Protected Area Biodiversity Conservation Section and organized by the Makati Platinum Lions Club. The DENR has welcomed stakeholders in the clean-up, tree planting and ecology education at the LPPCHEA since the government launched the Manila Bay rehabilitation in June. Freedom and Long Islands - which comprise LPPCHEA - serve as a catch basin of solid wastes mostly plastic and household wastes. On a weekly average, some 3.5 tons of garbage are hauled by DPWH for processing at the Las Pinas Dump Site en route to its final destination in Rodriguez, Rizal. (Photos by Jimmy A. Domingo)

Text by **PATRICK JUBERT B. BAYATO**

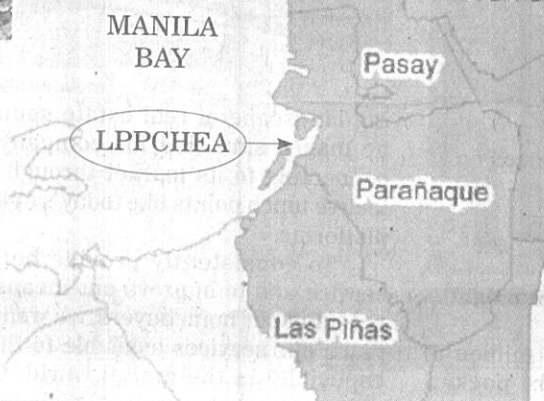
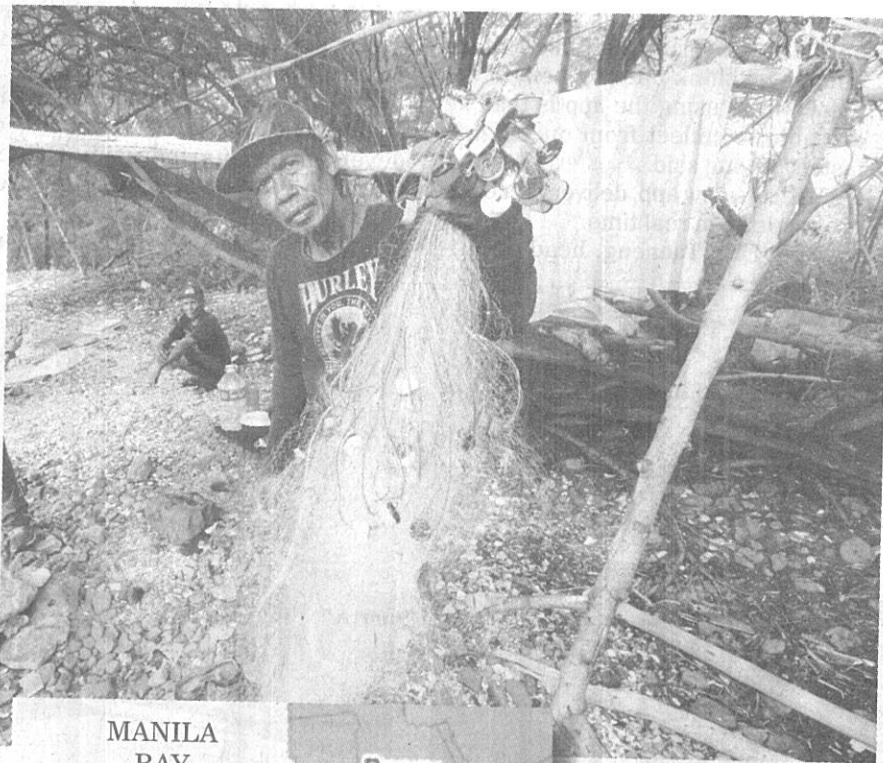
Within the busy concrete jungle that is Metro Manila, one would not expect to find a haven for migratory birds just right at the south of Manila Bay. This area is called the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), a proof that a highly urbanized place could still spare some space for environmental causes.

Priding itself by being listed in the Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, the 175-hectare LPPCHEA caters to more than 5,000 migratory birds which consider the latter as a rest stop from tedious migration over the months of August to July.

However, with urbanization creeping just right at its doorstep, ready to take over the mangrove-laden wetland, how much time do these birds have to enjoy this habitat?

Adding to that challenge, during the southwest monsoon, this critical habitat suffers from pollution due to the arrival of solid and liquid wastes, increasing the amount of coliform bacteria in the water. This harms the fishes too that temporarily serve as food for the birds that come from as far as Australia, Siberia and Japan.

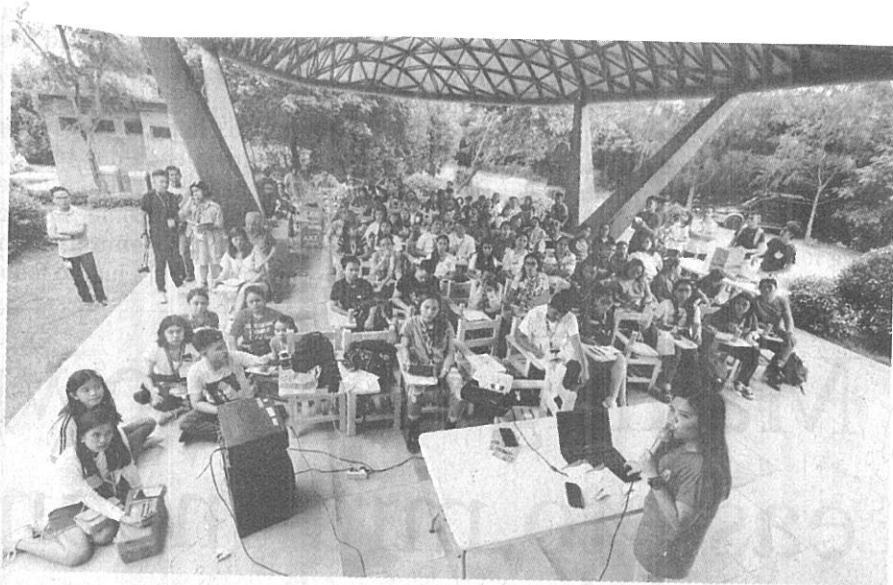
It is also important to note that infrastructure development is gaining ground in the area which could affect the health of the 36-hectare mangrove



Restituto Estiola, 59, a fisherman in LPPCHEA said they also help protect the cleanliness of the habitat as it is also their source of livelihood. They can catch an average of two kilos of fish for an hour using their nets. (Photo by Jimmy A. Domingo)



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forest.

The impact of urban expansion towards the country's economy is undeniably significant. Urbanization entails with it the promise of increased employment, stronger international ties and a more equitable economic growth. But should this prosperity be at the expense of the environment?

The people behind LPPCHEA firmly believe that the habitat could be an urban destination where visitors could be offered a unique experience. Aside from learning about the importance of nature, see migratory birds in flight, and know the impact of the presence of mangroves, this could be an ideal site for 'volun-tourism' – merging the joy of tour-

'Urbanization entails with it the promise of increased employment, stronger international ties and a more equitable economic growth. But should this prosperity be at the expense of the environment?'



A DPWH worker, one of 40 personnel assigned at the LPPCHEA, gather garbage, mostly plastics and household non-biodegradable wastes which wash ashore from the Las Piñas and Parañaque river tributaries, Cavite and Bataan areas. (Photo by Jevan Hope Baltazar of Titay NHS, Zamboanga Sibugay). Left: On average, since the Manila Bay rehabilitation which kicked off in June, these workers and volunteers collect at least 50 sacks of trash weighing 6 to 7 kilograms when dry. (Photo by Bea Nerly T. Eugenio from V. Mapa High School, Manila)

ism with the fervor of volunteering one's time and resources to promote empathy towards our one and only planet.

Sadly, we live in a time where considering our critical habitats as collateral to the surge of urbanization is justifiable.

But on the other side of the coin, if we get rid of our apathy towards nature conservation, LPPCHEA could not only continue to provide a temporary home for migratory birds for years to come but also become a shining example how environment conservation can exist side-by-side with urbanization.

(The author is an English teacher at Guihulngan National High School in Negros Oriental)



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



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A POINT OF AWARENESS

PRECIOSA S. SOLIVEN

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What Mayor Isko can learn from the Sydney Harbor model for Manila Bay

Each cosmopolitan city is a gem. Bangkok, Tokyo, Paris, Sydney are polished gems, but Manila, let alone Metro Manila is not. Tourists expect a red carpet welcome, meeting courteous and pleasant people, finding clean washrooms, an efficient transport system, decent and reasonably priced accommodation at three-star hotels, and a safe environment. Visitors are disappointed because our natural and cultural landscape has been obliterated alongside its rich history. Investments prioritize high-rise condos and malls, making our heritage churches and monument insignificant, instead of contributing to their upkeep and preservation. Tourists are disappointed and get the impression that we are uncultured, unenlightened, and common. Now we have the young Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko" Moreno who is determined to bring back historical Manila.



How Olympics 2000 restructured Sydney

Usually, it takes a world-wide event like the Olympics or a gathering of international heads of state like APEC to arouse a country to transform its capital city. For Olympics 2000, Australia won the tough world bidding competition, and quickly began construction as early as 1993. The plans were so precise that the suburb of Homebush on the Parramatta River, only 16 kilometers away from the city center, cleared away factories and an entire naval base station in the site. The Main State Sports Center (with an 80,000 seating capacity) and the Aquatic Center were also quickly set up. They were open to the public in 1995. Tour buses took adults (at Au\$5) and children (at Au\$2.50) to the site. An off-

season round trip by the efficient Australian Railways costs Au\$1.80 during that time. After Olympics 2000, the whole area was converted to low cost housing villages.

The exciting history of Manila Bay and Sydney Harbor

Today, the most talked about city in the eastern hemisphere is Sydney. As the plane descends, the white giant oyster Opera House greets the visitors. This iconic structures designed by a Danish architect Jørn Utzon is set against the blue bays and coves of Sydney Harbor. It is truly one of the most unforgettable panoramas of world tourism.

Sydney Harbor and Manila Bay have so much in common. While Sydney Harbor has the historical Rock, where British convicts were unloaded in 1870 by three great fleets, Manila Bay has the American military defense bastion – the Corregidor Rock. Here, General MacArthur and his aide, Dwight Eisenhower, planned the defense of Manila from the Japanese invasion with Commonwealth President Manuel Quezon and his Cabinet men.

Murderers, thieves and drunks made up the life in Sydney Rock particularly at King's Cross which is like our Ermita-type district bars and girlie discos. The city plan was only laid out after 25 years, during Governor Lachlan Macquarie's administration.

Manila's fabled treasures from Spanish and American eras

Before the war, Manila was one of the fabled cities of Asia. It was the crown of the whole country, which had then only more than two million Filipinos 1960 and for the first time, she was free from deficit. The population grew to eight million in 1990 and now it is 13,698,899. The Manila harbor was busy with in-

ternational trade. Manila paper, the thick Manila abaca rope, and the Tabacalera cigars, were popular all over the world. In 1959, when we resided in Saigon, the land and transport officer who gave me a driving test recalled that the "huge" Ana cabaret was so much fun.

Manila Bay is set against Intramuros, Fort Santiago and Rizal Park where the national hero Jose Rizal was sentenced to death as a "traitor" to Spain. This is the Spanish phase of our history. The beautiful boulevard alongside the nearby Manila Hotel is of American vintage. At one time, it was named after Admiral George Dewey, the American naval officer who captured Manila, and was sadly renamed Roxas Boulevard, after the short-lived President Manuel Roxas.

America sent her best planner, architect Daniel Hudson Burnham, to design Commonwealth Manila as the capital of the country. He designed the major cities of Washington D.C. including its picturesque Union Train Station, Chicago, and Pittsburgh. Known as the original builder of skyscrapers, he was the director of the 1993 Columbian Expo of Chicago, which celebrated the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America. This "imported" genius completed the plan to include the Philippine General Hospital complex with the Nursing School off Taft Avenue, the main road that cuts through the old Manila from the Post Office to San Andres circle down to Vito Cruz Street. Note that the art deco façade of the Rizal Memorial Coliseum complex is similar to that of the New York Metropolitan Theater.



MASAlamin ni Ed Cordevilla

16TH GAWAD TANGLAW BEST
NEWSPAPER OPINION COLUMNIST

KAMAKAILAN ay nag-post ako ng mga larawan ng kalikasan sa social media. Ilang mga kaanak na nasa abroad at ilang kaibigan ay nagtanong kung saan makikita ang lugar na aking ipinost. Laking gulat nila nang aking sabihing sa Manila Bay. Wala namang special sa camera na aking ginamit dahil isang cellphone lamang naman ang aking ipinangkuha ng mga larawan. Wala din akong ginamit na filter o special effects man lamang.

Hindi na nila makilala ang Manila Bay

ngayon dahil sa ipinagbago nito matapos ipag-utos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang paglilinis dito.

Ang ginawa ng administrasyon sa Manila Bay ay kasunod ng nauuna nang kampanya nito sa isla naman ng Boracay. Malinaw na inabuso ng walang patumangga ang Isla ng Boracay nang kung ilang dekada sa ngalan ng komersyalismo at pagkakakitaan ng mga negosyante, local na opisyal at mga residente ng isla.

Sa bandang huli ang kawawa ay ang kalikasan at ang mga indigenous

people ng Boracay na naitaboy sa kung saan-saan mula sa kanilang munting paraiso sa ngalan ng kitaan.

Ang ilan sa kanila ay mga nakikipagsapalaran sa Maynila, ang ilang naiwan na nangangalaga ng kanilang lupain sa isla ay pinagbobobola ng mga negosyante at mga lokal na opisyal

Sa ilalim ng liderato ni PRRD ay ipinasara ang nasabing isla upang maisaayos para na rin sa pagliligtas ng kalikasan at mapangalagaan ito mula sa patuloy na pang-aabuso.

Hinigpitan ng DENR at DILG ang mga requirements para sa mga establisimiyento upang maiwasan ang pagkakaulit ng pagkababoy nito.

KAPAG GINUSTO WAWASTO

Kinakailangan ng lamang ng mas maayos na koordinasyon sa mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan kasama ang Department of Tourism upang mas maistrategize ng maibubukas ng Boracay.

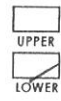
Walang ibang Pangulong nakagawa nito sa Boracay kundi si PRRD lamang, samantalang 1990s pa e nangangasakit na ang mga tao sa Boracay at nang eksaminin at imbestigahan ay napagtanto na ang sakit ay nanggagaling sa tubig ng Boracay na kontaminado na ng dumi ng tao, hayop at basura mula sa mga kabahayan at establisimiyento roon.

Taong 1990s pa ngunit ngayon lamang nailigtas ang Boracay sa

tiyak na pagkakaligwak ng political will ng isang lider.

Nagpayaman na ang mga barangay official dito, ang mga alkalde at mga inspection officer ng munisipyo sa Boracay kaya tuloy-tuloy sana ang korupsiyon at hapi-hapi ng mga opisyal mabuti at naagapan ni PRRD at katulong nga si DENR Sec. Cimatu ay nabigyan ng ibayong aksiyon.

Gayundin sa Manila Bay, ilang dekada na ring inabuso ang nasabing landmark ng mga mamamayan at mga negosyante at ngayon lamang nabigyan ng seryosong pagsagip. Kailangan talaga puso at political will. Nakikita natin 'yan ngayon.



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MARINE WILDLIFE Hinihila ng kalabaw ang wala nang buhay na pawikan na natagpuan ng mga residente sa baybayin ng dagat ng Bgy. Caraosan, sa bayan ng Bula, Camarines Sur, nitong Martes. Ayon sa mga report, may nakapulupot na tali sa katawan ng pawikan nang matagpuan.



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Senators pushing for total ban on single-use plastics

By PAOLO ROMERO

Senators are pushing for a total ban on single-use plastics, which they warned are more destructive to the environment than previously thought.

Sen. Pia Cayetano has called on the Senate to do its share in supporting the global movement to ditch single-use plastics and reduce plastic pollution.

In a brief manifestation during Monday's session and as part of the celebration of "Plastic-Free July," Cayetano reiterated her plastics-free advocacy by urging fellow senators not to contribute to the generation of plastic waste in the country.

She enjoined her colleagues to adopt a policy of prohibiting PET bottles in plenary or during Senate hearings.

As an alternative to plastic, the senator had bamboo tumblers distributed to her colleagues in the session hall.

This was not the first time that Cayetano made an appeal to the Senate to be more environment-conscious in the performance of duties.

In 2012, Cayetano wrote a letter to the Senate Secretariat suggesting that water dispensers be set up in the Senate halls, instead of distributing bottled water during session and public hearings.

"This was adopted at that time, but I don't really know what happened in the (last) Congress because I wasn't here. So may I propose that we adopt it once again, especially since it is July, which is No-Plastic Month?" Cayetano told her colleagues.

Sen. Cynthia Villar, chairperson of the Senate committee on environment, also sought the ban on single-use plastics throughout the country.

Villar said she would push for a review of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 with the objective of amending it to strengthen provisions

against single-use plastics.

The senator cited international studies that predicted that by 2050, there will be more pieces of plastic wastes in the oceans than fishes, which will soon die due to plastic ingestion.

She added that it was embarrassing for the country that it ranks third

in the world in terms of plastic pollution.

Meanwhile, Sen. Francis Pangilinan has filed a bill that will support farmers to go organic amid expected higher profits and health benefits.

Pangilinan filed Senate Bill 34 or the proposed Act Providing for the Development and Promotion of Organic Agriculture, which seeks to prioritize small farmers in the delivery of support services to make farming sustainable.

The bill provides representation to non-government organizations and farmers in the National Organic

Agriculture Board to ensure that their concerns are addressed.

"We need to show our farmers that organic farming will be worth their while and will be sustainable to encourage them to contribute to the country's growing number of advocates of non-traditional method of agriculture," Pangilinan said.

"Organic farming yields profit and healthier produce. It is time it played the role it deserves in feeding a rapidly growing population," he added.

- With Cecille Suerte Felipe,
Louise Maureen Simeon



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Behind the Nursing School along Padre Faura Street, is another set of handsome buildings – the Justice Department, the University of the Philippines, etc. crowning the Ermita District. Along the opposite side was Dewey Boulevard promenade and the Luneta Park. Along side the Luneta are the stately looking Senate and Finance buildings now converted to the National Museum complex. Today, only one place carries the name of this extraordinary architect, the popular Baguio City landmark, Burnham Park.

Beaches alongside culture

The famous beach area of Manly and Bondi are across the Sydney Bay. Four efficient ferries regularly bring people here and the Taronga open-air zoo. This could be Corregidor and Mariveles, Bataan. The reorganization of our local beaches along Parañaque and Cavite can easily match the spacious Manly and Bondi areas.

The Sydney Opera House Complex can be likened to the Cultural Center, PICC, and Folk Arts Theater Complex, Star City and Aliw Theatre.

Government could uplift a nation with professional planning

From the '60s, population in cities especially in Manila surged as country people fled their farms, hoping to earn more in the city. Without foresight and a sensible town plan, the Philippines post-war mayors like Arsenio Lacson, Antonio Villegas, Ramon Bagatsing, Lito Atienza, and Joseph Estrada allowed the country folks to resettle in Manila. The legal residents were hemmed in by squatter colonies. Can Mayor Isko Moreno stand out courageously to make a difference? Local government did not have provisions for more law enforcers, proper waste disposal, an extended transport system, more schools, hospitals and markets. After almost seven decades of independence, is this all we have achieved?



PH SINGLED OUT

OCEAN CONSERVATION GROUP PUSHES BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

An international ocean conservation group has appealed for the speedy passage of a national policy against single-use plastic that, it said, pollutes the ocean and chokes marine life.

Oceana president Jim Simon on Tuesday said that the organization would push for legislation that addresses plastic pollution in the 12 countries where their offices are located.

But Simon singled out the Philippines which, he said, has been tagged as among the top contributors of ocean plastic in

the world.

“Plastic is extremely destructive in the ocean. [It] does not go away unlike almost anything in the world,” he told reporters in a press briefing in Quezon City. “It is basically killing large parts of marine life and will not go away.”

Solid waste management

Simon said the policy against single-use plastic is “nowhere as important” as in the Philippines, where a great majority of people rely on marine resources for both food and livelihood.

“As a nation of islands, it’s

so easy for the plastic to run off the sea, with so many places in the country that don’t have the resources for adequate solid waste management,” he said.

Oceana Philippines had earlier called President Duterte to order the National Solid Waste Management Commission to include single-use plastic in the list of the nonenvironmentally acceptable products and packaging.

A 2016 study by World Economic Forum revealed that at least 8 million tons of plastic are dumped in the ocean every year, equivalent to the contents of one garbage truck every minute.

As the 18th Congress opened earlier last month, Oceana Philippines vice president Gloria Estenzo Ramos said they expected Mr. Duterte to certify as urgent the bills that would ban the use of single-used plastic.

Several bills had been filed in Congress imposing a ban on single-use plastics.

Last month, Sen. Francis Pangilinan filed Senate Bill No. 40, which seeks to ban the importation, manufacture and use of such items. Antique Rep. Loren Legarda filed a similar bill in November last year. INQ



Gatchalian pushes waste-to-energy bill

SEN. Sherwin Gatchalian on Wednesday pushed for the creation of a regulatory framework for waste-to-energy (WTE) technologies in the 18th Congress, in line with the Duterte administration's thrust to advance renewable energy in the country.

Gatchalian, chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy, believes that tapping WTE technologies would lead to a more secure energy system, more sustainable power generation and waste management system.

In his fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the Department of Energy (DoE) to fast-track the development of renewable energy sources and reduce dependence on traditional energy sources.

Gatchalian said Republic Act (RA) 9513, otherwise known as the "Renewable Energy (RE) Act of 2008," mandates the DoE to encourage the adoption of WTE facilities and to consider biodegradable organic fractions of industrial and municipal wastes as part of biomass resources.

But, he lamented that WTE facilities are almost negligible, with only 13.83 megawatts (MW) of installed capacity and a mere 26.48MW of committed or indicative capacity since the enactment of the RE Act more than a decade ago.

Gatchalian vowed to prioritize during the 18th Congress the passage of Senate Bill 363 or Waste-to-Energy Act (WTE Act),

which he filed, to support the growth of WTE in the country.

The bill seeks to provide a framework for the entire value chain of WTE facilities, and, in turn, ensure the uninterrupted supply of waste as feedstock.

The measure mandates a WTE strategy in the national, provincial and solid waste management plans, and authorizes local government units to enter into cooperative undertakings, joint ventures and other similar modalities for WTE generation facilities.

SB 363 will require standards, criteria, guidelines and formula in computing for a fair, equitable and reasonable tipping charge for WTE facilities, taking into consideration the cost of construction, operation and maintenance of the facility, and the potential revenue from the sale of energy output, such as electric power, refuse-derived fuel and biogas.

The WTE Act also assures continued incentives for LGUs under RA 9003, biofuel plants under RA 9637, and renewable energy power plants under RA 9513 when it comes to the construction, operations and maintenance of WTE facilities.

Gatchalian recently met with stakeholders to discuss how the Senate may help jumpstart the WTE industry and make it sustainable in the country.

JAVIER JOE ISMAEL



PHIL's waste-to-energy bid gains traction in Congress

BY BUTCH FERNANDEZ [@butchfBM](#)

CONGRESS was asked to front-load the passage of a waste-to-energy (WTE) bill that President Duterte is expected to certify as an urgent measure.

This, as Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian committed to press for an early enactment of an enabling law providing the regulatory framework for WTE technologies in the 18th Congress.

Asserting that the bill was crafted "in line with the Duterte administration's thrust to advance renewable energy in the country," Gatchalian recalled that the President, in his fourth State of the Nation Address (Sona) before a joint session of Congress, directed the Department of Energy to fast-track the development of renewable-energy (RE) resources and reduce reliance on traditional energy sources.

Sitting as chairman of the

Senate Committee on Energy, Gatchalian showed keen interest on the economics of WTE that he expects to "redound to the benefit of the nation through a more secure energy system, and the environment through a more sustainable power generation sector and waste management system."

The Senator on Wednesday invoked Republic Act (RA) 9513, also known as the RE Act of 2008, which mandated the DOE to encourage the adoption of WTE facilities and to consider biodegradable organic fractions of industrial and municipal wastes as part of biomass resources.

In a news statement, Gatchalian noted that WTE facilities are

"almost negligible" in the energy mix, noting only 13.83 megawatts of installed capacity and a mere 26.48 MW of committed or indicative capacity since the enactment of the RE Act more than a decade ago.

Acting to address the problems, Gatchalian vowed to prioritize passage of Senate Bill 363, or Waste-to-Energy Act (WTE Act), which he earlier filed to boost the growth of WTE in the country through the early enactment of a law providing a framework for the entire value chain of WTE facilities and, in turn, "ensure the uninterrupted supply of waste as feedstock."

As filed, the remedial legislation mandates a WTE strategy in the national, provincial, and solid waste management plans and authorizes local government units to enter into cooperative undertakings, joint ventures and other similar modalities for WTE generation facilities.

Gatchalian's Senate Bill 363, once enacted into law, will require standards, criteria, guidelines, and formula in computing for a fair, equitable, and reasonable tipping charge for WTE facilities, taking

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into consideration the cost of construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility, and the potential revenue from the sale of energy output, such as electric power, refuse-derived fuel and biogas.

He added that the WTE Act also assures continued incentives for LGUs under RA 9003, biofuel plants under RA 9637, and renewable energy power plants under RA 9513 when it comes to the construction, operations and maintenance of WTE facilities.

The senator reported he had also recently met with stakeholders to discuss how the Senate may help jump-start the WTE industry and make it sustainable in the country. "During our informal meeting with stakeholders, we identified financial viability and sustainability as the main problems that the WTE industry faces," said Gatchalian.

"Financial viability is an issue because it is very expensive to build these facilities and the 'tipping fee' or garbage processing fee paid by local government units is too low. If the tipping fee is low, the price of the output [electricity, fuel or gas] is too high," he added.



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Tiangco leads Navotas cleanup

Navotas City Mayor Toby Tiangco led the clearing operation in the city Wednesday morning in compliance with the directive of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Tiangco was joined by Navotas City police officers led by Col. Rolando Balasabas, and personnel from the city's traffic and engineering offices as they removed obstructions along

R-10.

Wooden chairs in front of eateries, several pieces of woods, galvanized iron roofs, tarpaulins, illegally parked vehicles and other household materials that littered on the city's major roads were removed. A barangay chairman was also ordered to demolish a barangay post built in Navotas West as it occupies a portion of a road. **(Joseph Pedrajas)**



DAR targets land distribution by 2022

THE Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) said it is upgrading its processes in order to accelerate land distribution, and set a 2022 target for completing its land acquisition and distribution (LAD) program.

"Right now we are trying to initiate moves. We are innovating our system so that we will be able to comply with the President's order of completing the land acquisition and distribution by 2022... We are going to approach it scientifically by using technology," DAR Secretary John R. Castricones told *BusinessWorld* by phone.

Specifically, he said DAR will seek to identify bottlenecks in processing land acquisition and use of special software to help survey and map land.

"That is one of the hurdles, the conduct of the survey, as we are talking about land located in ru-

ral areas," he added, noting that quicker surveys will allow for faster transactions with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) "because the survey plan must be approved by the DENR," he said.

He said other technology will help determine what further aid Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) need after being granted the land.

"We will have a picture of the land where they are located... so that we will be able to immediately pinpoint what sort of help we can extend to them," he said.

During a recent conference held in Clark, Mr. Castricones told DAR offices to come up with a catch-up plan for the remaining months of 2019.

"This is particularly for those provinces, which have... a lot of lands to be covered under the CARP

(Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program), so I am directing them to submit an inventory and the clearing of the universal goal that we have so that we would be properly informed as to the extent of those which we need to cover," he said.

In total, inventory of land covered under CARP exceeds 500,000 hectares for privately acquired land; about 187,000 hectares for government-owned land; and 1.4 million hectares of land with collective Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CCLOA), which require parcelization.

"What is doable right now is we are looking at around 600,000 plus hectares," he added.

DAR has been working to acquire all government-owned land suitable for agricultural use but no longer used for this purpose as authorized by Executive Order 75. — **Vincent Mariel P. Galang**



PNP rejects PHL tag as 'risky' place for land and envtl activists

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) on Wednesday refuted a Britain-based watchdog's claims alleging that the Philippines is the most dangerous place for land and environmental activists.

PNP chief Director General Oscar Albayalde said the PNP takes strong exception to the labeling done by Global Witness of the country as a deadly nation for land rights.

He said land disputes have always been a perennial source of conflict among people, and this has been among several motives behind some homicides investigated by the PNP.

"Let me assure that every incident of violence stemming from whatever motive is promptly investigated by the police with utmost priority," Albayalde said in a news statement sent to reporters.

"The reality is that the activities of the local communist movement in the countryside is also a factor in this armed conflict over land rights, and many tribal leaders, community officials and government security forces have died protecting land rights against insurgents who want to place these communities under their control," the PNP chief stressed.

In its report, Global Witness said 164 land and environmental activists were killed in the country in 2018. This number, it said, includes the nine sugarcane farmers who were gunned down in Sagay City, Negros Occidental, in October last year.

'Horrible'

FOR their part, local environmental groups described as "horrible" the latest Global Witness report that declared the Philippines as the deadliest country in the world for land and environmental defenders.

Greenpeace Southeast Asia said the Duterte administration must act to protect environmental defenders, even as another group said that the report is proof that the attacks against environmental defenders are state-sponsored.

"It is horrifying that those who

peacefully defend land and the environment are the ones who are being killed and persecuted so that environmental exploitation can continue for the profit of a few," Greenpeace Southeast Asia Country Director Lea Guerrero said in a news statement.

According to Guerrero, the most disadvantaged Filipinos are already at the forefront of impacts from the climate emergency. As such, protecting nature and the environment is vital for our survival, she said.

"Greenpeace is extremely alarmed that instead of protecting these brave Filipinos and communities, the attacks on them persist," she said.

"The government must not allow the corruption at the root of these killings to continue. Greenpeace is calling on the Philippine government to protect and support our environmental defenders, and to ensure that justice is served," she added.

The report released on Monday by the campaign group Global Witness said that 30 of the global total of 164 environmental and land-related killings occurred in the Philippines last year.

In 2017 the country was second to Brazil for the most number of deaths.

In its latest annual report, Global Witness said the death toll in the country reached 30 in 2018, with the massacre of farmworkers in the island of Negros making it a clear hot spot of killings.

"The ecological agriculture that landless farm workers have painstakingly carved out of the vast monoculture plantations of Negros sugar barons have been irrigated with blood and bullets. Since 2017 to date, at least 87 land and environment defenders have been murdered by military, paramilitary troops, and other state forces for carrying out land occupation and cultivation campaigns across the island," said Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment, one of the local partners of Global Witness in the Philippines. **Jonathan L. Mayuga, Rene Acosta with PNA**



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E-Trikes are "toys"

CEBU – The Land Transportation Office (LTO) in Central Visayas yesterday warned that riders of Electronic Tricycles (E-Trikes) will continue to be apprehended especially those which will be seen running along the national and city roads.

"If these E-Trikes have the approvals from these government agencies, they are legal but if none, they should be apprehended," said LTO-7 Regional Director Victor Emmanuel Caindec, who added that these should be properly documented and pass the requirements set by the Departments of Energy, Trade and Industry, Department Environment and Natural Resources and the LTO.

An estimated 5,000 units were imported and declared as "toys" so sellers or distributors would tell the buyers that there is no need for licenses especially from the LTO. Prices of these range from P15,000 to P17,000 per unit. **Rico M. Osmeña**



EMBASSIES, EVENTS, ETC.

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Photo exhibit showcases biodiversity of Indonesian, Philippine marine life

VISITORS of the SM Aura Premier had the rare opportunity of appreciating the breathtaking beauty of the marine biodiversity of the Philippines and Indonesia, as well as compelling images of the two nations' peoples and tourist attractions, at a recent photo exhibition at the said mall.



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A joint project of the Embassy of Indonesia in Manila in partnership with the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation and SM, the photo showcase, with the theme "Pursuing Marine Development to Boost Tourism Growth," is part of the celebration of the 70 years of friendship between the two neighboring Asean countries.

Aside from being archipelagic in nature, Indonesia and the Philippines are both strategically positioned near the equator, which nature has endowed a vast wealth of natural resources and shelter the highest marine biodiversity concentration in the world.

The exhibit attested the above-mentioned facts as it featured hundreds of photographs of various maritime resources of Indonesia and the Philippines, as well as their cultural facets.

Acclaimed Indonesian photographers Raymond Timotius Lesmana and Anwar, as well as Filipino lensmen Mariano Sayno, Rhonson Ng and Rovy Llody de los Santos, captured the images.

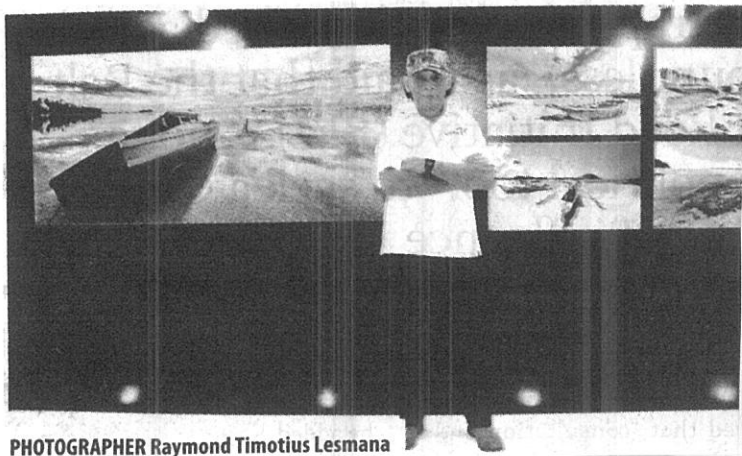
Lesmana displayed his snapshots of Indonesia's marine tourism, inspired by the cruising tourism suc-

cess in the Mediterranean and Caribbean seas. He promotes Indonesia's coastal wealth and beauty on the international stage through Sail Indonesia, an annual yacht-rally event aiming to develop marine tourism through the exploration of Indonesian waters and numerous stops.

For his part, Anwar is an underwater photographer and diving coach. His shots of marine life were taken in various diving spots in Indonesia, which are perfect locations for beginners as well as professional underwater photographers.

Representing the Philippines are Sayno, from Southern Tagalog, who captured the joyful faces of the people he encountered in his excursions mostly near the sea; Ng, from Mindanao, who embarked on a cultural journey to the beautiful spots in Tawi-Tawi, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Surigao del Sur and Camiguin; and de los Santos, who invaded the waters of General Santos City to capture the giant tuna, most of which are taller or longer than the fishermen who haul the huge marine creatures.

The photo exhibit is one of the many exciting cross-cultural events at the SM Aura Premier.



PHOTOGRAPHER Raymond Timotius Lesmana



EMBASSY of Singapore's Deputy Chief of Mission and Counselor Zhou Suli (from left), Brunei Darussalam Ambassador Hajah Johariah Abdul Wahab, Dizon and Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of the Asia and Pacific Affairs Director Marford Angeles



EMBASSY of Indonesia's Buana (from left), Embassy of Brunei Darussalam's Second Secretary Khairul

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SM Senior Vice President for Marketing Communications Millie Dizon and Minister Budi Dhewajani, Embassy of Indonesia's deputy chief of mission



DIZON and underwater photographer Anwar



EMBASSY of Indonesia's staff members: First Secretary Gama Nasution, First Secretary Agus Buana, Pingkan Ezra, Minister and Counselor Teguh Wiweko and Rifel Pakasi



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Gov't 'weak' in implementation of fisheries law

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**

Top officials of the multinational environment group Oceana said the Duterte administration is "weak" in terms of the implementation of Fisheries Law, with the fisheries sector still one of the most vulnerable sectors in the Philippines.

"The Philippines has good laws, but we are so weak in implementing it," Oceana Vice President Gloria Estenzo Ramos said in a briefing when asked if the government is doing a good job in terms of regulating and protecting the Philippines' coastal waters.

Oceana is the only international non-government advocacy organization focused on marine conservation.

In a briefing, Ramos, together with some officials of the Oceana group, discussed about the efforts of the Philippine government to address illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities amid sea disputes with

other countries like China.

Referring to the amended Fisheries Code or the Republic Act (RA) 10654, Oceana Senior Advisor and Chief Scientist Mike Hirshfield agreed that the Philippines has well-crafted policies, but he also wonders why the country still deals with so much IUU fishing cases.

For instance, he said Philippines is one of the few countries that has a law that supposedly protects small-scale fishermen by not allowing commercial fishing vessel to fish in municipal waters.

"[The law says] we should have areas reserved for small scale fishermen," Hirshfield said. "The challenge is how to enforce that line."

Amended five years ago, RA 10654 was passed to ensure the rational and sustainable development, management and conservation of the fishery and aquatic resources in Philippine waters including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and in the adjacent high seas.



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Corporate-led forest restoration program cited by CSR group

The future has, indeed, taken root for geothermal leader Energy Development Corporation (EDC) whose 'Binhi' greening legacy program has won the best corporate social responsibility (CSR) project in environment at the League of Corporate Foundation's 1st CSR Guild Awards.

Binhi is the first corporate-led forest restoration program that has been bridging forest gaps and bringing back to abundance our threatened Philippine native trees.

"This recognition is a big honor for us because it comes from our peers who have their own laudable CSR programs as well," said Atty. Allan V. Barcena, head of EDC's CSR group.

Planting trees and growing them have been an integral part of

sustaining the geothermal reservoir in EDC's geothermal reservation for over 40 years. In 2008, the company launched Binhi to expand the program by using science in planting and rescuing threatened native trees. A total of 96 threatened native tree species have been prioritized for this search and rescue program as their numbers have been dwindling, with some even believed to be extinct.

In 2017, EDC finished locating, collecting these hardwood species and began propagating them in 2018 through its Vegetative Material Reproduction (VMR) technology, which mimics our forest's natural environment in two automated nurseries located in the company's geothermal facility in Valencia, Negros Oriental and in Antipolo, Metro Manila.

Moreover, around 9,323 hectares of forest land within and surrounding EDC project sites has been rehabilitated. This is equivalent to about 6.4 million

seedlings planted all over the country in partnership with 109 farmers associations whose members are incentivized for helping EDC grow and maintain its Binhi areas.

EDC's Binhi experience shows that, with the right combination of win-win strategies and partnerships, the triple bottom line of environmental, social, and economic transformation is attainable.

Another good example of successful strategic partnerships is the 10 Million Trees in 10 Years for a Greener Negros (10M in 10) project, one of the finalists in the 1st CSR Guild Awards' Outstanding CSR Collaboration Project category. 10M in 10 is a movement that EDC initiated in 2015 to grow back the forests in Negros Island by planting, growing, and maintaining 10 million trees in 10 years.

As of 2018, 10M in 10 has already planted over 6.2 million trees with the help of its 156 stakeholder partners.





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GREEN IS IN!

Eco responsibility

Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) joined the Global Toyota Environment Month through a series of activities that raise awareness on environmental conservation. TMP team members and representatives from the Toyota Suppliers Club (TSC)



planted 200 trees inside the 11-hectare Toyota Forest at the Toyota Special Economic Zone in Santa Rosa, Laguna. Toyota volunteers also participated in the river clean-up along the Silang-Santa Rosa River near the company's vicinity (in photo). By cleaning up the river, TMP hopes to prevent further pollution and improve the waterways. The Silang-Santa Rosa River is connected to Laguna Lake, which is one of the primary water sources for livelihood of nearby communities.



Draft genome sequences of bacteria isolated from Benham Bank

A team of scientists has isolated draft genome sequences of six bacteria from the near-bottom waters and surface sediments of Benham Bank, Philippine Rise.

These genome sequences represent candidate novel species and/or strains from the families *Flavobacteriaceae* and *Dermacoccaceae* and the genera *Idiomarina*, *Bacillus* and *Vibrio*, according to an online report late last month in the American Society for Microbiology.

At a depth of 50 meters, Benham Bank is the shallowest portion of the Philippine Rise. The bank is covered in clear waters, allowing sunlight to reach its depth previously shown to host a diverse community of hard corals with associated reef fishes, sponges and algae.

"Except for fishing within the narrow window of March to June every year, this unique offshore

coral reef environment is naturally protected from further anthropogenic activities," the report said.

Scientists Saul Rojas, Albert Remus Rosana, Andrew Montecillo, Mark Dondi Arboleda, Hildie Maria Nacorda and Nacita Lantican hypothesized that Benham Bank may harbor bacteria that could produce novel bioactive compounds that can be used as antimicrobial or anticancer drugs, fungicides, herbicides, or pesticides.

In their abstract, the Filipino team reported the six bacterial isolates were preserved at the Microbiology Division, Institute of Biological Sciences, University of the Philippines Los Baños, under the accession codes 10Pi, 144Ye, 147Ba, 29L, Br233 and Br345.

Samples from Benham Bank were obtained by professional divers. Near-bottom water samples were collected and surface sedi-

ments were directly scooped from the bottom "using sterile conical tubes."

The fresh samples were inoculated into marine broth 2216 and incubated onboard at 28°C for 48 hours. The inoculum was serially diluted, plated on marine agar 2216, and incubated aerobically at 28°C for 72 hours, the online report said.

Bacterial colonies with distinct morphological characteristics were picked and extensively purified by streak plating, generating single-colony isolates.

Genomic DNA was extracted and purified from the bacterial isolates grown overnight in marine broth 2216 using a Wizard genomic DNA purification kit following manufacturer's protocol, the highly technical report said.

Analysis revealed that "three of the isolates are candidate novel species, while three other species are candidate novel strains."

A total of 26 gene clusters for putative biosynthetic secondary metabolites from all of the genomes combined were predicted, even as the understanding, manipulation and elucidation of these genomic elements can help in the discovery of novel marine bioactive natural products, the report concluded.

The research cruise was funded by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology.

The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources allowed the use of the research vessel *M/V DA BFAR* in the Benham Rise cruise.

Sophie Dang from the Molecular Biology Service Unit, University of Alberta assisted in the genome sequencing.



POE: WHAT DOES MILITARY MAN KNOW ABOUT WATER DISTRIBUTION?

DU30 APPOINTS RETIRED MILITARY GENERAL TO MWSS BOARD

By Leila B. Salaverria and Marlon Ramos
@Team_Inquirer

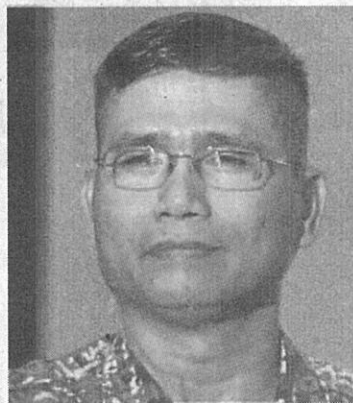
President Duterte has appointed another retired military general to the government, naming Emmanuel Salamat to the board of trustees of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

The designation of Salamat, former head of the Armed Forces' Northern Luzon Command, came a month after the President said he wanted him to lead the agency.

Mr. Duterte also sent MWSS Chair Franklin Demonteverde to the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) as representative of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. The JBC vets nominees to vacancies in the judiciary.

Demonteverde's appointment was issued on July 19, and that of Salamat on July 29.

Reynaldo Velasco, a retired police general, was also reapp-



Emmanuel Salamat

EDWIN BACASMAS

pointed to the MWSS board on July 29.

Water shortage

The MWSS came under fire during the water shortage that hit large areas of Metro Manila and parts of Rizal province in March and left customers fuming. The crisis prompted Mr. Duterte's threat to relieve officials of the regulatory agency.

Amid the public outcry, the MWSS slapped Manila Water Co. Inc., the private concessionaire, with P1.13 billion in penalties in April for the shortage. The penalties are on top of the estimated P500 million that will be returned to customers in the form of a rebate.

Mr. Duterte has been vocal about his preference for retired military officials in the government. He has named them to positions that have nothing to do with defense or the country's security.

Following orders

In September 2016, three months after assuming the presidency, he said he liked recruiting former soldiers because they tended to follow orders promptly, unlike civilian members of the bureaucracy.

He said he had found it difficult to make the civilian workers to move quickly, especially during emergencies.

Among the former mili-

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tary officials now in the government are PhilHealth president Ricardo Morales, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, Social Welfare Secretary Rolando Bautista, and Bureau of Customs

chief Rey Leonardo Guerrero.

Also part of the Duterte Cabinet are former military officials—Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., and Secretary Gregorio Honasan II of the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

Several senators on Wednesday defended the Presi-

dent's decision to appoint a retired military official to the MWSS board.

Ascertain competence

But Sen. Grace Poe said that while the choice was Mr. Duterte's prerogative, she underscored the need to ascertain the competence of Salamat in his new assignment in the MWSS.

"We want to know the experience of Salamat in running a regulatory board or his competence amid the challenges in water distribution," Poe said.

"The problem regarding the supply of water is no joke. People without experience in this field of work will not succeed. We all want a solution to the water supply problem. What

can he contribute?" she said.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III maintained that there was no law banning former members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other former uniformed personnel from serving in the civilian government.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson pointed out that the 1987 Constitution had authorized the President to

place individuals in government posts who "he feels can effectively support his policies and programs."

Besides, he said, retired police and military officials appointed to key government offices would have to undergo the scrutiny of the Commission on Appointments before they could occupy their posts. INQ

UN calls youth climate summit, skeptics bare litany of wrong forecasts

First word

IMONITOR both sides of the raging climate debate: both those who fervently predict global climate catastrophe and the skeptics who say it is all baloney.

As the hour nears for the United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York on September 23, new developments and changes are taking shape in line with the summit.

Because of the tepid international response to its announcement, the world body now also plans to convene a youth climate summit before the elders meet.

The UN Youth Climate Summit is envisioned as a platform for young leaders who are driving climate action to showcase their solutions at the United Nations, and to meaningfully engage with decision-makers on this defining issue of the times.

The historic event will take place on Saturday, September 21 at the United Nations headquarters in New York, as part of a weekend of events leading up to the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit on Monday, September 23.

A teen activist from Sweden, Greta Turnberg, will take center stage in the youth summit, be-



OBSERVER

**YEN
MAKABENTA**

cause of her celebrity.

The main summit on September 23 seeks to bring climate action to the top of the international agenda

The summit, Mr. Guterres said, will focus on the heart of the problem — the sectors that create the most emissions and the areas where building resilience could make the biggest difference — as well as provide leaders and partners the opportunity to demonstrate real climate action and showcase their ambition.

"There is no more time to waste. We are careering towards the edge of the abyss," the secretary general warned. "Every day that passes means the world heats up a little more and the cost of our inaction mounts."

"Every day we fail to act is a day that we step a little closer towards a fate that none of us wants — a fate that will resonate through generations in the damage done to humankind and life on earth."

Climate realists have also been active as the summit nears. There is a fresh surge of critical commentary in the media on the premise of the UN climate agenda: anthropogenic climate change. Global warming is being challenged on many fronts. I have been reporting on these published articles for months in this column.

Today, I want to call attention to the journalism and commentary of a new site on the web, "Issues and Insights."

Most eye-catching are two recent editorials: 1) an editorial on the missed forecasts of the climate alarmists; and 2) the false hope in a teen savant for the climate agenda.

I quote from the editorials below:

Will climate alarmists tire of being wrong?

Prince Charles' recent pronouncement that we have only 18 months to save the planet from man-made global warming was followed up by a BBC report telling an identical tale. (Is there something in the Thames?) Nothing new here, though. The same wild, irresponsible guesses have been made for decades, and so far, none has been right.

"Now it seems, there's a growing consensus that the next 18 months will be critical in dealing with the global heating crisis, among other environmental challenges," BBC environment correspondent Matt McGrath wrote last week with great certitude.

"Observers recognize that the decisive, political steps to enable the cuts in carbon to take place will have to happen before the end of next year."

The year 2020, McGrath continued, "is a firm deadline" because "one of the world's top climate scientists eloquently addressed" the danger in 2017.

We've had "firm" deadlines before. Nothing happened. But we're supposed to believe this one is really "firm." That it can't be ignored. Forget all those previous predictions of doom, they tell us, because this time they have it right. And maybe the window is not even 18 months...

While the alarmists are busy today foretelling the coming climate disaster, they've conveniently forgotten the encyclopedic catalog of failed predictions. They just delete them from memory much the way that Moscow erased historical

► **Observer 5**

■ OBSERVER FROM A4

UN calls

figures whose existence reflected poorly on the Soviet way, or displeased the thugs in power.

But some remember those frenzied forecasts. Following is but a small taste of a smorgasbord of baloney:

1. Al Gore once declared that "unless drastic measures to reduce greenhouse gases" were taken within the next decade, "the world will reach a point of no return," eventually suffering "a true planetary emergency." That was 13 years ago.

2. Gore is of course the same fellow who in the mid- to late-2000s kept telling us the Arctic Ocean would soon be ice-free. The ice, which is still there, had grown thicker and had wider coverage in 2014 than when Gore made his prediction. Earlier this year, before the growing season had ended, *Wattsupwiththat* reported the "2019 Arctic sea-ice extent is already higher than the previous four years and six out of the last 14 years."

3. In January 2009, former NASA scientist and corporate witch hunter James Hansen swore that the incoming president had a mere four years to save the world.

4. Later in the year, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown (the Thames, again) said there remained "fewer than 50 days to set the course of the next 50 years and more."

5. Also in 2009, 124 months ago, the Prince of Wales worried out loud the world had "less than 100 months" to save itself.

The year 2009 was a particularly loony year. Elizabeth May, leader of the Greens in Canada, wrote "we have hours to act to avert a slow-motion tsunami that could destroy civilization as we know it... We need to act urgently. We no longer have decades; we have hours."

Despite the weight of mistaken forecasts, the alarmists plod on.

The new face of global warming

The face of the global warming

scare was once that of Al Gore. Now that face belongs to a 16-year-old girl who's being treated as a prophetess. It's hard to conceive of a world gone more mad.

Greta Thunberg has been thrust into the spotlight, tagged as the child who will lead us away from our inevitable climate disaster — if only we let her. Adults hang on her words, regard her as an omniscient oracle, insist that we are in the presence of our savior.

This child mystic of Sweden has been allowed to speak at the Davos economic forum, in Britain's Parliament, and at a United Nations convention. She's inspired a global school walkout and protested in front of Sweden's legislature when she should have been in school. The kids at Vox have declared that when watching Thunberg speak, "it's hard not to think of Cassandra, the brash young warrior of Greek myth who beseeched Apollo for the gift of prophecy."

When Thunberg says "we need to rapidly remove all fossil fuels

from our everyday life and leave them in the ground," that "we must remember that this is above all an emergency — not primarily an opportunity to create new green economic growth. We need a whole new way of thinking," she is doing nothing more than following the alarmist handbook. There's no revelation there, no new words from Heaven. Just the tired, unoriginal rhetoric we've endured for years.

Which will prevail?

Which will prevail in September? Climate alarmism or climate realism?

Will more people believe in climate change and climate catastrophe because of what transpires in the summit?

Will climate realism finally prevail — like the view that planet Earth revolves around the sun, and that population growth is not a curse but a blessing for the world?

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TITLE



ULTIMATUM ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

MULING pinayagan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang operasyon ng Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, partikular ang pagpapalaro nito ng Lotto.

Pero hinarang ng Pangulo ang pagpapalaro ng Small Town Lottery (STL), Peryahan ng Bayan (PNB) at Keno.

Kaya lamang, ang pagbubukas ng palaring Lotto ay hindi nangangahulugang ititigil na rin ang imbestigasyon ng katiwalian o pandarambong sa loob at labas ng PCSO.

Hindi rin nangangahulugang anomang araw ay papayagan na rin ang PNB, STL at Keno dahil isasailalim din ang mga ito sa imbestigasyon.

PCSO MAY SARILING ISKAM

May mga sariling iskam ang PCSO kaya naman kinakalkal at binabakbak ang mga ito upang mapalaya ang ahensya sa kuko ng mga

korap at mandarambong.

Natapos na ang P366 milyong iskam sa PCSO makaraang pawalang-sala ang lahat ng mga isinangkot dito ng Supreme Court, kasama na si dating Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sa iskam na ito, binaklas umano ang P366M mula sa pondo ng ahensya at inilipat ito sa intelligence fund na iilang tao lang ang nakaaalam kung kanino, paano at kailan gastusin ito.

Kakulangan ng ebidensya ang pinagbatayan ng SC para pawalang-sala sina ex-PGMA.

Kahit may kasong ganito, hindi natakot ang mga korap sa pagsalakay sa pondo ng PCSO na galing sa mga palaro nito.

ILANG PCSO ISKAM

Mula sa ating UZI, tila may iskam umano, gaya ng overpricing at pangongomisyon, halimbawa, sa pagbili ng mga ambulansya.

May nagpapabago-ba-

PAGTULUNGANG LINISIN ANG PCSO VS KORAP, ETC

go ng signages para pagkakitaan din ang mga kontrata rito.

Hindi rin umuusad nang malinaw ang mga kaso sa agawan ng mga teritoryo ng PNB at STL habang mayroon ding kaso sa mabagal na pagbibigay ng prangkisa sa permit ng Lotto outlet dahil sa kotongan at suhulan.

Pati ang mga hukuman ay nakakaladkad sa mga kaso at ngayon nga ay inorderan na ang lahat ng mga hukuman na may hawak na kaso na magsumite sa SC ng estado ng mga kaso.

Binanggit kasi mismo ni Pang. Duterte na hindi niya kikilalanin ang anomang manggagaling sa hukuman na pangharang sa kanyang aksyon sa suspensyon ng mga palaro ng PCSO.

Pero may mga kasong nakapag-iisyu ng mga temporary restraining order na maaaring ikinasasama ng mga pagkilos ng pamahalaan laban sa korapsyon at pandarambong.

BILYONAN KAYA PINAG-AAGAWAN

Malakihan ang pinag-

uusapang pera sa STL at PNB.

Ayon sa mga lumalabas na ulat, kumikita ang STL ng P25 bilyon taontaon habang may nag-offer naman ng kita para sa pamahalaan ng P100B taon-taon basta sila ang may hawak ng PNB.

Ganito kahalaki ang perang sangkot sa mga palaro ng PCSO kaya naman nanlalaki ang mga mata ng mga korap at mandarambong.

Naglalaway ang mga korap at mandarambong sa laki ng salaping umiikot sa STL at PNB at gusto nilang makinabang dito.

Sa kabilang banda, nagtataka lang ang pamahalaan kung bakit napakaliit ang ingreso ng STL sa PCSO.

At sagot dito ang kwentong ating UZI na konting halaga lang ang ipinapasok ng STL sa PCSO at palaro nito ang pinakamalaki, nasa 70%, ang kinakabig para sa iligal na pasugal

Kumbaga, ginagamit lang ang STL ng PCSO ng mga gambling lord para isulong ang iba nilang

pasugal gaya ng jueteng, lotteng at iba pa na nakabase sa resulta ng mga bola ng PCSO.

MGA GOB, MGA MAYOR

Lumalabas na konektado sa mga matataas na lokal na opisyal ang mga may kontrol sa STL at PNB.

Ang mga ito ang kumakabig ng iligal sa mga kita o koleksyon ng mga nagpapataya.

Kung hindi naman, sila ang may patong o koleksyon sa mga suhol o kotong sa mga gambling lord.

Sina gob at mayor ang nagdidikta kung sino-sino ang mga pwedeng maglaro sa kanilang mga teritoryo.

Ngunit magagaling ang mga ito na magtago ng kanilang mga partisipasyon sa kalokohan.

At dahil sa kapangyarihan ng mga gob, mayor, na may kasama pang mga kongresman, nagiging inutil ang PCSO mismo sa paggawa ng mga desisyon sa paggawad ng prangkisa ng mga palaro.

Meron ka ngang prangkisa, halimbawa, mula sa PCSO, harang ka naman kung wala kang permit to operate mula kina mayor at gob.

MAGSALITA

Ngayon nga ay nasa

mulan na ang mga imbestigasyon at kasama sa inatasang mag-imbestiga ang National Bureau of Investigation.

Kung meron tayong alam na mga kailigalan o kababalaghan sa pag-iisyu ng mga kontrata, ng mga permit to operate, ng mga prangkisa, ng paggamit ng kapangyarihan nina gob, mayor at kongresman pabor o laban sa palaro, aba, magsalita tayo, mga Bro.

Sa ating pagsasalita, malilinis ang mga palaro at mula rito, lalago ang pondo ng PCSO na ginagamit naman sa napakaraming bagay, gaya ng pagpandar ng mga ambulansya na ipinamamahagi sa tao, ng pampaospital at gamot, ng operasyon ng batas na Universal Health Care para sa libre o murang gamot, doktor, ospital at iba pa.

Tumulong po tayo laban sa mga korap, mandarambong, mandarayang negosyante at iba pa at ituwid ang landas ng PCSO.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa banti-
antiporda@yahoo.com



THE EXPORTER OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS SINCE 1900

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EDITORIAL

CARTOON

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

01 AUG 2019

DATE



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman Quezon City 1116
Telephone Nos.: (632)927-15-17, 928-37-25; Fax No.: (632) 920-22-58
Website: <http://www.emb.gov.ph> / Email: mail@emb.gov.ph

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (EPRMP)** of the proposed **SMELTING PLANT AND ROLLING MILL PROJECT** of the **METRODRAGON STEEL CORPORATION (MSC)** located in **3 MGM INDUSTRIAL COMPOUND, BARANGAY BAGBAGUIN, VALENZUELA CITY**;

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **SMELTING PLANT AND ROLLING MILL PROJECT** to attend a Public Hearing on **16 AUGUST 2019 (FRIDAY)** at **9:00 AM** (*registration starts at 8:00 am*) to be held in the **COVERED COURT JASMIN ST. CORNER GOLDEN ROD ST., DE CASTRO SUBDIVISION, PASO DE BLAS, VALENZUELA CITY**.

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with MSC's application for the amendment of its Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC). The EPRMP of the aforementioned project is being reviewed by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

MSC was incorporated on 13 May 2009 under SEC Register No. CS200906528. The proponent engages in the manufacturing and selling of steel deformed bar, plain round bar, square bar, angle bar, steel billet and wire rod. Its operation is covered by an ECC with reference no. ECC-NCR-0501-0021 that was issued on 13 May 2010.

The following is the project fact sheet:

Project Name	Smelting Plant and Rolling Mill Project
Project Location	3 MGM Industrial Compound, Barangay Bagbaguin, Valenzuela City
Project Area	8.0725 hectares
Project Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smelting Plant – 299,520 MT/year • Rolling Mill – 299,520 MT/year • Mini Rolling Mill – 59,904 MT/year

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/ participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD)** of this Office through mail or through email at eiamd.emb.co@gmail.com, three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EPRMP and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: www.eia.emb.gov.ph (*kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website*) while copies will be available in this Office and in the following offices:

- 1.) **EMB National Capital Region**
Address: National Ecology Center Compound, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: (02) 931-1331
- 2.) **City Environment and Natural Resources Office – Valenzuela City**
- 3.) **City Environment and Natural Resources Office – Caloocan City**

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 920- 2240 to 41 and look for the project case handler **Mr. Xairus Rey Guzman** and **Engr. Carlo Vic Arida, EnP.**

Protect the environment... Protect life...