

DATE : 07 AUG 2019

DAY : Wednesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



2 wildlife traders get 4 years

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has scored another legal victory against traders of endangered wildlife species.

Jomar Toledo and Rompas Lumakore were found guilty of violating Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, Municipal Trial Court Presiding Judge Semiramis Bituin Castro said in a decision released recently.

RA 9147 prohibits killing, injuring, collection, sale and

transport of threatened and endangered wildlife species.

Toledo and Lumakore were also ordered to pay a fine of P30,000 each.

The two were arrested in a raid on a warehouse in Barangay Dahican, Mati City that yielded wildlife species with a market value of more than P50 million.

At least 450 species of bird, mammals and reptiles, including the black palm cockatoos and Echidna, were recovered.

"It is our mandate to give justice to the voiceless

wildlife species that are incessantly being used for personal gains," DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said as he hailed the court ruling.

Last April, the Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 36 convicted wildlife trader Harriet Shelley Velarde, who was caught selling a live green iguana in July 2018, of violating RA 9147.

Velarde was sentenced to up to two years in prison. She was also ordered to pay a fine of P200,000.

- Rhodina Villanueva



→2 DAVAO WILDLIFE TRADERS GET 4 YEARS, 30K FINE

A MUNICIPAL judge in Mati City, Davao Oriental, recently convicted two illegal wildlife traders to four years in prison and a fine of P30,000.

The decision was hailed by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu as "yet another corroboration of the agency's unyielding mission of protecting the country from illegal wildlife trade."

The decision was penned by Presiding Judge Semiramis Bituin Castro I, sentencing Jomar Lumakore Toledo and Rompas Manindig Lumakore to jail terms for violating Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

The two convicts were arrested during a raid by authorities led by the DENR. The operation led to the rescue of wildlife species worth around P50 million in Mati City last April. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



2 wildlife traders convicted

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu has lauded the decision of a Davao court for convicting two illegal wildlife traders who were found guilty of the charges of violation of Republic Act 9147.

Cimatu said the conviction is "yet another corroboration of the agency's unyielding mission of protecting the country from illegal wildlife trade."

"It is our mandate to give justice to the voiceless wildlife species that are incessantly being used for personal gains," Cimatu stressed.

In a decision, Judge Semiramis Bituin Castro of the Municipal Trial Court in Mati City, Davao Oriental sentenced the accused Jomar Lumakore Toledo and Rompas Manindig Lumakore to four years of imprisonment after they were found guilty beyond reasonable doubt of the violation of RA 9147.

Aside from imprisonment, the court also ordered the accused to pay a fine of P30,000 each.

RA 9147 prohibits the killing, injuring, collection, selling and transport of threatened and endangered wildlife species.

Court records showed that both accused pleaded guilty to the crime upon arraignment from the pre-

vious plea of not guilty.

The case stemmed from a raid conducted last April by the Philippine Operations Group of Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade or Task Force POGI—a composite team of wildlife enforcers from various agencies including the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Philippine National Police—in a warehouse in Barangay Dahican.

The raid yielded a total of 450 species of bird, mammals and reptiles, including the endangered Black Palm Cockatoos and Echidna, valued at more than P50 million.

The confiscated exotic animals were reportedly in

the area for safekeeping in a week before they are transported to and sold in different areas in the country. The task force arrested Toledo and Lumakore, who served as caretakers of the wild animals.

Earlier this year, the DENR also won a lawsuit against a wildlife trader who was caught selling a live green iguana, which is considered an endangered species, in July 2018.

The Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 36 convicted Harriet Shelley Velarde for violating RA 9147 and sentenced her to suffer the penalty of imprisonment of one year and one day to two years, and to pay a fine of P200,000.



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Court convicts 2 illegal wildlife traders

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has scored another victory against illegal wildlife traders after two individuals were convicted for the P50 million-worth of wildlife species caught in their possession in Mati City last April.

According to Secretary Roy Cimatu, the Municipal Trial Court of Mati, Davao City found Jomar Lumakore Toledo and Rompas Manindig Lumakore guilty for violation of the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001. The two were sentenced to four years in jail and a fine of P30,000 each.

Cimatu described the conviction as "yet another corroboration of the agency's unyielding mission of protecting the country from illegal wildlife trade."

RA 9147 prohibits the killing, injuring, collection, selling and transport of threatened and endangered wildlife species.

Joel dela Torre



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DENR wagi muli sa kaso vs illegal wildlife traders

NAGTAGUMPAY muli ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources laban sa mga illegal wildlife traders matapos hatulan ng korte sa Davao ang dalawang katao na nahuli sa isang raid at nakumpiskahan ng P50 milyong halaga ng wildlife species noong Abril sa Mati City.

Kasabay nito, binati ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang nasabing hatol na isang pagpapatunay ng matatag na misyon ng ahensya na bigyang proteksyon ang bansa laban sa illegal wildlife trade.

Nabatid sa ibinabang desisyon ni Judge Semiramis Bituin Castro ng Municipal Trial Court sa Mati City, Davao Oriental, ang mga akusadong sina Jomar Lumakore Toledo at Rompas Manindig Lumakore ay napatunayang nagkasala ng paglabag ng Republic Act 9147 o mas kilala sa tawag na Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

Ang RA 9147 ay nagbabawal sa pagpatay, pananakit, pagkolekta, pagbebenta at pagbibiyaha sa mga threatened at endangered wildlife species.

Sina Toledo at Lumakore ay pinatawan ng kaparusahang pagkakulong ng hindi hihigit sa apat na taon at multang P30,000 bawat isa.

Sa rekord ng korte, ang mga akusado ay umamin sa kanilang nagawang pagkakasala sa ginanap na re-arraignment mula sa unang pagtanggig ng mga ito sa kanilang kaso.

Ang kasong ito ay nag-ugat matapos magsagawa ng operasyon ang Philippine Operations Group of Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade o Task Force POGI na kinabibilangan ng mga tauhan ng Biodiversity Management Bureau, National Bureau of Investigation at Philippine National Police, sa isang warehouse sa Barangay Dahican.

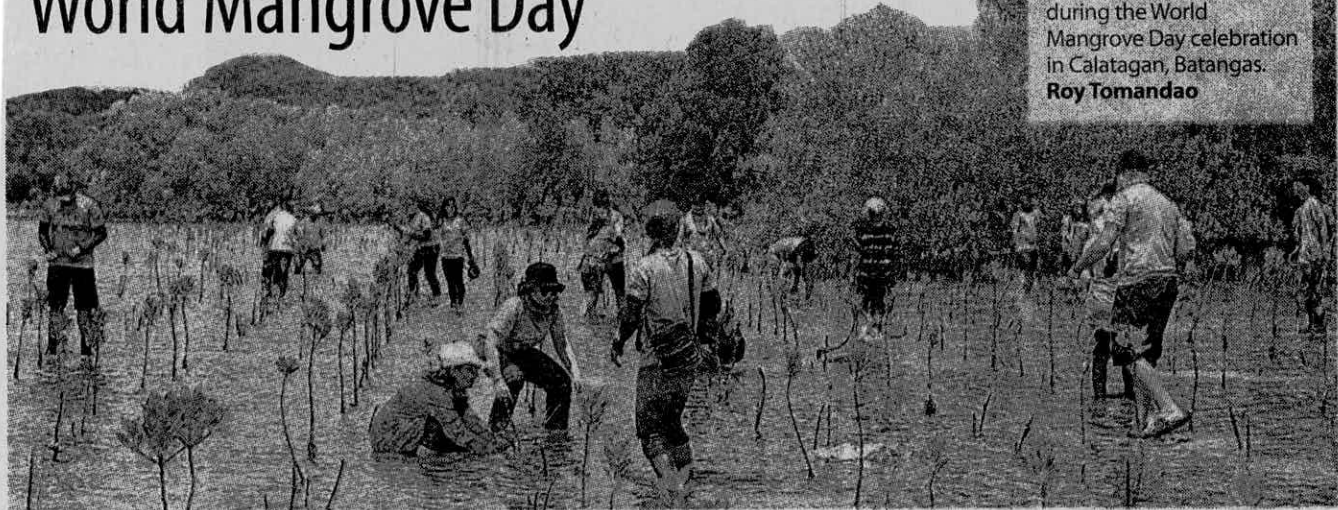
Nakumpiska ng mga operatiba ang 450 piraso ng ibon, mammals at reptiles kabilang na ang endangered Black Palm Cockatoos at Echidna.

Inaresto ng task force sina Toledo at Lumakore na nagsisilbing caretaker ng wild animals.

Bago ito, nanalo rin sa kaso ang DENR laban sa wildlife trader na nahuling nagbebenta ng buhay na green iguana na kinokonsiderang endangered species, noong Hulyo 2018. SC



DENR Calabarzon marks World Mangrove Day



Officials of DENR Calabarzon wade into the shallow waters to plant mangrove seedlings during the World Mangrove Day celebration in Calatagan, Batangas.
Roy Tomandao

By Roy Tomandao

TO CELEBRATE World Mangrove Day, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources—Calabarzon Conservation and Development Division recently organized a mangrove tree planting activity at Barangay Talisay, Calatagan, Batangas.

The activity saw 60 volunteers from DENR Calabarzon, CENRO Calaca (Batangas), the DENR Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau, the local government of Barangay Talisay, and the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Mangingisda sa Barangay Tal-

isay people's organization.

A total of 1,200 propagules of "Bakawang Lalaki" and "Bakawang Bato" species were planted to mark World Mangrove Day, celebrated every June 26.

According to Violy Gulapo, Senior Science Research specialist from the ERDB, a total of 500,000 hectares of mangrove forests the country had in 1918 had gone down to only 117,000 hectares in 1995.

In 2011, coastal rehabilitation programs implemented by the government, nongovernment organizations and communities helped this number gradually increase to 257,362 hectares.

Gulapo added that three main func-

tions of the Mangrove Ecosystems are for fishery production, for environmental protection, and as a carbon sink.

She commended the DENR-Calabarzon for conducting mangrove rehabilitation programs and reminded people conducting planting activities they should have enough knowledge in proper zonation of the mangrove.

"We have to monitor the success rate of every planting activity," Gulapo emphasized.

Rodrigo de Jesus, president of the SNMBT, disclosed that their organization has done regular mangrove planting activities since 2007.

Carcass of 200-kg giant sea turtle exhumed

LEGAZPI CITY: A few days after environment officials buried a 200-kilo giant *pawikan* or leatherback sea turtle, the National Museum exhumed its carcass for scientific study here.

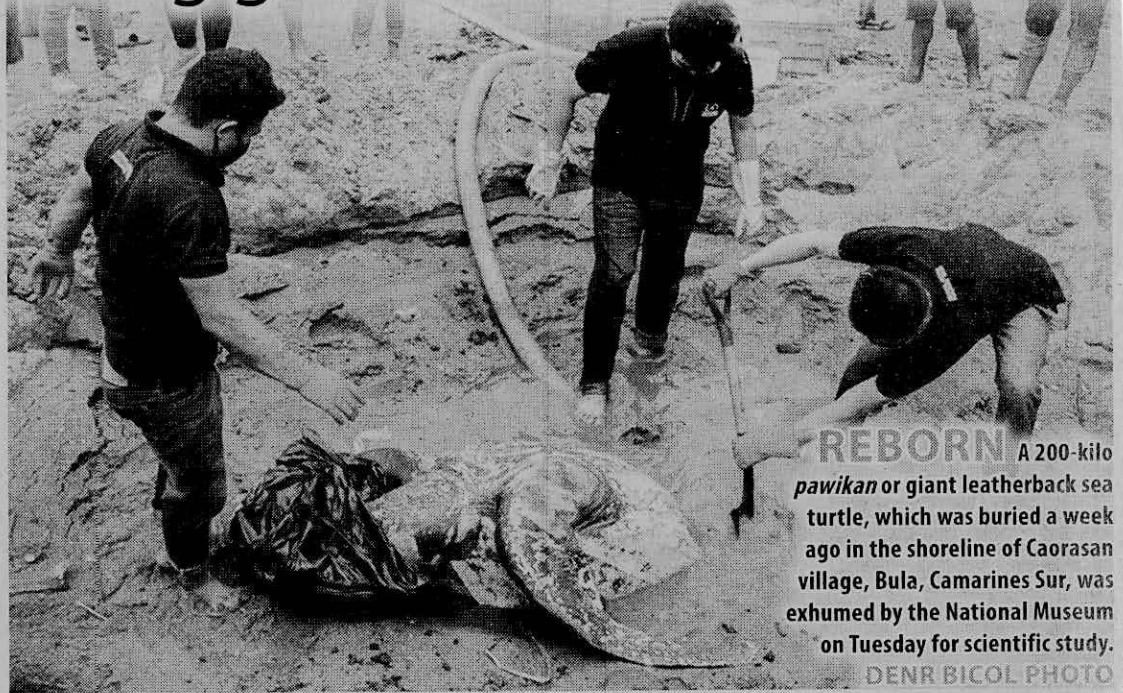
The sea turtle, which was buried in the shoreline of Caorasan village, Bula, Camarines Sur, was unearthed Tuesday by personnel of the National Museum in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Bicol and Bula local government.

The National Museum acting deputy director general for administration, Angel Bautista, conducted the exhumation of the *pawikan*.

"The taxidermy was done yesterday on the *pawikan's* body through mounting or stuffing for the purpose of display and study," Bautista said.

DENR Bicol Executive Director Gil Aromin Aromin said his office's and The National Museum's thrust is to be instrumental in bringing to the consciousness of the general public the significance and conservation of the ecosystem.

"Moreover, the *pawikan* is an



REBORN A 200-kilo *pawikan* or giant leatherback sea turtle, which was buried a week ago in the shoreline of Caorasan village, Bula, Camarines Sur, was exhumed by the National Museum on Tuesday for scientific study.

DENR BICOL PHOTO

important addition to the National Museum of Natural History's zoological reference collections for further research," he said.

Fisherman Tirso Renegado found the giant male *pawikan*, measuring 138 centimeters in length and weighing 200 kilograms, already dead and with both flippers entangled in a rope.

According to Henry Bismonte of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office of Bula, the cause of death could have been drowning as the *pawikan* failed to resurface for oxygen.

The DENR, though its Conservation and Development Division, continuously calls on the public to report such incidents and turnover

wildlife to proper authorities.

Aromin said the DENR is taking action to strengthen the enforcement of Republic Act 9147 or the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act" in support of DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu's marching orders to enforce biodiversity conservation.

RHAYDZ B. BARCIA



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Improving watershed ecosystem mng't

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the National Irrigation Authority have signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the effective management and development of the 143 watersheds supporting the National Irrigation Systems in the country.

NIA administrator Ricardo Visaya and Environment and Natural Resources Sec. Roy Cimatu inked the agreement at the DENR Central Office in Diliman, Quezon City.

By virtue of the DENR Memorandum Circular 2008-05, the guidelines in the preparation of Integrated Watershed Management Plans and programs of all watersheds in the country, regardless of their classification, size, use, and administrative jurisdiction, was issued.

In this regard, there is a need to establish and delineate the respective responsibilities of the DENR and NIA over watersheds and reservations, for purposes of effective management and development of programs and projects toward the sustainable existence of irrigation systems within the said areas.

Similarly, the concept of Watershed Ecosystem Management from ridge to reef approach, including vulnerability assessment, must be harmonized and adopted.

The MoA provides that in coordination with DENR and Forest Management Bureau, NIA would identify and recommend priority watersheds and reservations supporting irrigation projects which require immediate rehabilitation and development.

In collaboration with the DENR and other concerned agencies and instrumentalities, NIA would also secure appropriate environment clearances and permits from the DENR/field offices as necessary for the protection of watersheds and reservations.

Moreover, the Agency would recommend qualified NIA field personnel to be deputized by the DENR as Environment and Natural Resources Officers, in accordance with the existing forestry laws, rules, and regulations.

In this regard, NIA is to assist the DENR in the preparation of IWMP and programs related to the management, protection, development, and rehabilitation of such watersheds and reservations.



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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



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'Refill Revolution' dinala ng DENR, NutriAsia sa mas maraming barangay

Isa pang refilling station ang itinayo ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kasama ang mga partners nito tulad ng NutriAsia Inc. sa isang barangay sa Bulacan.

Bahagi ito ng Refill Revolution na kampanya ng DENR na naglalayong mabawasan ang pagkonsumo ng plastik sa nasabing rehiyon.

Nabigyan ng pagkakataon ang mga residente ng Barangay Caingin, Bocaue na makabili ng mga produkto ng NutriAsia, gaya ng Datu Puti suka at toyo, sa mas murang presyo sa pamamagitan ng pagdala ng sarili nilang mga containers.

Nilalayon ng Refill Revolution na itaguyod ang pangangalaga sa kapaligiran sa pamamagitan ng

paghikayat sa mga sambahayan na mag-recycle o muling paggamit ng kanilang malilinis na plastik containers sa halip na itapon ito kaagad.

Ayon kay Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Central Luzon Director Lormelyn Claudio, ang programang ito ay isang praktikal na solusyon laban sa polusyon sa plastik. Nakakatulong ito sa "pagbawas sa produksyon at paggamit ng plastik at makakabawas ng polusyon sa hangin at tubig."



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Metro cleanup akin to rehab of Boracay



Manny B. Villar

THE ENTREPRENEUR

THE cleanup of Metro Manila's major thoroughfares is long overdue. I like to compare the current road-clearing operations in the metropolis to the rehabilitation of Boracay Island and other famous resorts in the Philippines, which has been a success and noticed by foreign tourism bodies and travelers alike.

The directive of President Duterte to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and Metro Manila mayors should, be pursued earnestly. The cleanup drive should emulate the Boracay initiative to restore law and order in the capital region, and even in Mega Manila that includes nearby provinces.

Illegal merchants and unscrupulous businessmen have taken over some of the major and busy roads in Metro Manila, compounding the traffic problem and giving the image that lawlessness is the order of the day in the country.

President Duterte, during his fourth State of the Nation Address on July 22, 2019, told all mayors to "reclaim all public roads that are being used for private ends." I could not agree more. Roads are built to transport commuters to their intended destinations and should be free from obstructions.

I understand the plight of the vendors who are trying to make a living when they occupied many of Metro Manila's roads. But I believe local officials can work out a sustainable arrangement for these displaced vendors to ply their trade somewhere else, and not on the busy roads of the metropolis. A lot of people and even foreign tourists will appreciate a cleaner and more orderly Metro Manila.

All mayors should follow the directive of President Duterte. Local and foreign tourists, for one, will enjoy their stay more in Metro Manila if they can travel freely and safely in and out of the city.

I am glad local executives have heeded the call of President Duterte. Interior Secretary Eduardo Año just recently marked the start of the 60-day countdown for Metro Manila mayors to finish the road-clearing campaign. Local authorities have also given erring motorists and illegal vendors a reasonable warning in



I am glad local executives have heeded the call of President Duterte. Interior Secretary Eduardo Año just recently marked the start of the 60-day countdown for Metro Manila mayors to finish the road-clearing campaign. Local authorities have also given erring motorists and illegal vendors a reasonable warning in connection with the ongoing crackdown on illegal parking and other forms of road obstructions.

connection with the ongoing crackdown on illegal parking and other forms of road obstructions.

MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim and National Capital Region Police Office Director Major Gen. Guillermo Eleazar both vowed to clamp down on activities that impede traffic flow and endanger other road users both on major and secondary streets in Metro Manila.

Local government executives, in turn, pledged to dismantle informal roadside shops and other illegal structures in their respective areas to ease traffic congestion. I notice that President Duterte's directive has already produced initial results. Mayors Edwin Olivarez of Parañaque and Imelda Calixto-Rubiano of Pasay have cleared the obstructions in the notorious Baclaran area and committed their support to the MMDA to make all roads obstruction-free, while looking for alternatives to relocate the vendors.

MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim is

doing his part by asking mayors to start with national roads, Mabuhay lanes and identified roads in their cities that serve as alternative routes. "For the identified routes, no parking and illegal structures must be allowed, then we can deal with the side streets later," said Lim.

"There would be no let-up in our operations as the DILG gave us orders to reclaim the roads in 60 days. We will ensure that these will be done daily to fast-track clearing of all roads," Lim promised.

MMDA General Manager Jose Arturo Garcia Jr. agreed with Lim. "These roads were being used for profit for a long time and it's about time we reclaim it for the common good. Sidewalks are for pedestrians while public roads are for motorists," he said.

Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso was among the first Metro Manila executives to initiate the road cleanup. His first move as mayor was to clear the chaotic and messy commercial area of Divisoria, followed by the busy streets of Quiapo, Rizal Avenue, Carriedo, Recto Avenue and Blumentritt.

There should be no let-up in cleaning up and restoring order in Metro Manila. Like the Boracay restoration and the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay, the road-clearing operations should continue to transform the capital region into a modern metropolis on a par with those in the region.

For comments, e-mail mbv.secretariat@gmail.com or visit www.mannyvillar.com.ph.



WATER LEVELS RISE

RAINS BRING RELIEF TO LA MESA, ANGAT

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

The heavy rains from southwest monsoon and tropical depressions the past few days brought relief to Angat and La Mesa dams, whose water levels had been receding in previous months.

On Tuesday morning, the elevation in Angat's watershed was recorded at 169.26 meters above sea level (masl), marking a rise of 0.93 m from the previous day. Water level in La Mesa was at 75.58 masl, or 0.24 m higher than Monday's level.

The dry months led to water shortages across Metro Manila as the water level in both dams reached near critical levels.

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the southwest monsoon will prevail over the country on Wednesday, bringing moderate to heavy rains over Luzon and Visayas. Pagasa is also monitoring "Hanna," which developed into a severe tropical storm on Tuesday. INQ



Angat, La Mesa malayo pang umapaw—Pagasa

PATULOY ang pagtaas ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat at La Mesa dam pero malayo pa ito sa normal high water level, ayon sa datos ng Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Kahapon ng umaga ang tubig sa Angat ay 169.26 metro umakyat ng 0.93 metro kumpara sa 168.33 metrong lebel nito noong Lunes ng umaga.

Ang normal operating level ng Angat ay 180 metro at ang normal high water level nito ay 210 metro.

Ang tubig narman sa La Mesa dam ay umakyat ng 0.24 metro at kahapon ng umaga ay 75.58 metro ito. Ang NHWL nito ay 80.15 metro.

Ang Angat at La Mesa dams ang pangunahing pinagkukuhanan ng suplay ng tubig ng Metro Manila at mga karatig na probinsya. — *Leifbilly Begas*



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Sa tuloy-tuloy na ulan

Water level ng Angat Dam, umangat

BUNGA ng tuloy-tuloy na 169.26 metro ang water wasan na ngayon ay nasa pag-ulan, nadagdagan nang level ng Angat dam. 100.74 meters ganoon din halos isang metro ang antas Ayon din sa PAGASA, ang water level ng Binga at ng tubig sa Angat Dam sa nadagdagan ang water level Caliraya dams. lalawigan ng Bulacan sa ng La Mesa dam at nasa Sinabi sa ulat, ang iba nakalipas na nakalipas na 24 75.58 metro ngayon. pang dam sa Luzon ay na oras. Samantala, sa kabila ng pawang nadagdagan ang Ipinahayag ng PAGASA pagtaas ng antas ng Angat water level bunga ng patuloy Hydrology Division kahapon, Dam, nananatiling mababa na pag-ulan sa malaking 6 Agosto, dakong 6:00 am ang lebel ng tubig sa Ipo Dam bahagi ng bansa. nang umabot hanggang at patuloy pang nababa- (MICKA BAUTISTA)



Marina, PCG probe Iloilo-Guimaras tragedy

By **ROBERTZON RAMIREZ**

An inter-agency body has been created to investigate the boat sinking incidents that occurred in the waters between Iloilo and Guimaras on Saturday.

The panel will be composed of personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard and Maritime Industry Authority (Marina), Capt. Armand Balilo, spokesman for the PCG, said yesterday.

"These incidents tell us we

should revisit our protocol in the area. We should adapt to the changing weather pattern. That is part of the investigation, they would recommend changes," Balilo told journalists.

In a statement, the Ma-

rina said its investigation coordination team (ICT) will monitor the search and rescue operation and provide assistance to the investigating institutions.

President Duterte will be in Guimaras today to pay his

last respects to the victims and condole with the families.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the President would likely provide financial assistance to the families.

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Pending investigation, Marina suspended operations of all passenger motorboats serving the Iloilo-Guimaras route. It deployed two roll-on, roll-off vessels to serve passengers affected by the tragedy.

Balilo said the search and rescue operations continue as the weather is improving.

Sen. Grace Poe said it's time for the country to create the National Transportation Safety Board to make land, air and sea travel safer.

Poe said investigators should immediately determine where the liability lies in the boat sinking incidents.

Travel warning

The tragedy prompted the government of the United Kingdom to warn its citizens against traveling by sea in the Philippines.

In an advisory issued on Monday, the UK government urged its citizens to avoid travel on ferries and passenger boats if possible, particularly during the rainy season.

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office noted that passenger boats "are often overloaded, may lack necessary lifesaving equipment or be inadequately maintained

and have incomplete passenger manifests."

"Storms can develop quickly and maritime rescue services in the Philippines may be limited," it said.

Guimaras Vice Gov. John Edward Gando said the advisory could affect the image of the tourism industry.

Very rough seas

Weather forecasters said rough to very rough seas would continue to prevail in many parts of the country due to severe Tropical Storm Hanna and the southwest monsoon.

As of 11 a.m. yesterday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) issued a gale warning over the eastern coast of Albay, Aurora, Bataan, Batangas, Cagayan, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Isabela, Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Pangasinan, Romblon, Sorsogon and Zambales as well as Masbate, including Ticao and Burias, and Quezon province including Polillo Island.

Small sea vessels are prohibited from sailing in these areas as waves are expected to be 4.5 meters high.

A similar warning was also hoisted in parts of the Visayas and Mindanao.

Hanna, which is expected to intensify into a typhoon within the next two days, continued to move slowly over the Philippine Sea.

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, the center of Hanna was located at 780 kilometers east of Calayan, Cagayan with maximum sustained winds of 100 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 125 kph.

Hanna was moving north-northwest at 10 kph. It was expected to bring scattered rains and thunderstorms over Cagayan Valley in the next 24 hours.

Monsoon rains will still prevail over Bataan, Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan), Western Visayas and Zambales.

Cloudy skies with rain-showers and thunderstorms due to the southwest monsoon will persist over Metro Manila, the Cordilleras, Bicol region, Calabarzon (Cavite and Quezon), and the rest of Central Luzon and the Visayas.

The rest of the country may have isolated rains due to localized thunderstorms.

Weather specialist Benison Estareja said PAGASA might raise tropical cyclone

wind signal No. 1 over extreme Northern Luzon should Hanna retain its strength as it moves north toward Taiwan.

Hanna is expected to exit the Philippine area of responsibility on Friday.

PAGASA is also monitoring a low-pressure area over the West Philippine Sea and a tropical depression east of Northern Luzon.

As of 3 p.m., the low-pressure area was spotted at 310 km west of Iba, Zambales. It was "less likely" to develop into a tropical depression, PAGASA said.

Although slightly, the water level in Angat Dam in Bulacan rose due to rains brought by Hanna and the southwest monsoon.

The provincial disaster office said the dam's water level yesterday morning was at 169.30 meters from 168.53 meters the previous day.

The figure is 10.70 meters below the dam's minimum operating level of 180 meters and 42.7 meters below its high normal water level of 212 meters.

Meanwhile, the water level in Ipo Dam, also in Bulacan, dropped to 100.73 meters yesterday from 100.93 meters on Monday. - **Helen Flores, Evelyn Macairan, Christina Mendez, Jennifer Rendon, Paolo Romero, Ramon Efren Lazaro**



Pay P2-B fine, SC orders MWSS, Maynilad, Manila Water

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday imposed massive fines on the government's Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and private water concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water for noncompliance with the Clean Water Act.

Voting 14-0, the SC ordered

MWSS and Maynilad to pay P921,464,184, with Manila Water and MWSS ordered to pay the same amount.

"Maynilad shall be jointly and severally liable with the MWSS for a total amount of P921,464,184 covering the period May 7, 2009 to date of promulgation," SC spokesman

Brian Keith Hosaka said.

"Manila Water Company Inc. shall be jointly and severally liable with MWSS for the same amount and period," he added.

MWSS, Maynilad and Manila Water were supposed to provide wastewater treatment facilities and

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Pay From Page 1

to connect sewage lines in all establishments, including households, to an available sewerage system within five years after effectivity of the law in 2004.

Hosaka explained the fine covers the period of May 7, 2009, five years after the Clean Water Act was enacted, up to yesterday when the decision was promulgated.

The SC ordered the MWSS and the two water concessionaires to pay within 15 days from receipt of the decision.

The high court clarified that even if the petitioners complied with the decision to pay the fine within 15 days, they would still be fined the initial amount of P322,102 per day subject to further 10 percent increase every two years as provided under Section 28 of the Clean Water Act, until full compliance with Section 8 of the law.

MWSS chief regulator Patrick Ty said he has no idea on the decision of alleged violation of the Clean Water Act of the two companies.

"I have not heard about it. I have yet to receive a copy of the decision so I really don't know," Ty said.

"It is actually my first time to hear about such imposition of penalty," he added.

Ty, however, maintained the water shortage in the last

few months could not possibly be the cause as the Clean Water Act is more on the sewerage system.

"I think it's totally different. We would have to study the legal basis once we receive a copy," he said.

Both concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad have yet to issue statements.

The SC affirmed the ruling of the Court of Appeals (CA) finding MWSS, Maynilad and Manila Water in violation Section 8 of the Clean Water Act.

Maynilad and Manila Water separately sought to appeal the CA decision with the secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and with MWSS before the Pollution Adjudication Board.

The SC consolidated the petitions and affirmed the decision of the CA allowing DENR in 2009 to impose a fine on MWSS, Maynilad and Manila Water for failure to comply with Republic Act 9275.

The DENR imposed on MWSS and the two water concessionaires a P29.4-million fine for the period May 7 to Sept. 30, 2009 and P200,000 per day thereafter for failure to fulfill their obligations under RA 9275.

- Evelyn Macairan, Louise Maureen Simeon



SC imposes P2-b fine on water firms

By Rey E. Requejo

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and two water concessionaires to pay a hefty fine of almost P2 billion for violations of the Philippine Clean Water Act.

In an en banc decision penned by Associate Justice Ramon Paul Hernando, the High Court directed Maynilad and MWSS to jointly and severally pay P921,464,184 for the period of May 7, 2009 to date of promulgation.

The same amount of fine was slapped on Manila Water to be paid jointly and severally with MWSS.

SC Public Information Office chief
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SC...

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Brian Keith Hosaka said the court, voting 14-0, denied the petitions filed by MWSS, Maynilad and Manila Water assailing the decision of the Court of Appeals, which found the three liable for violation of Section 8 of the Philippine Clean Water Act.

Hosaka said both concessionaires are required to pay the fine within 15 days from receipt of the decision.

From receipt of the decision until fully paid, the petitioners shall be fined the initial amount of P322, 102.00 per day subject to 10 percent increase every two years as provided under the Clean Water Act.

The Court added that a six percent per annum fine shall also be applied until the payment is fully satisfied.

A Court insider revealed Maynilad and Manila Water were found to have failed to put up sewage lines and sewerage treatment facilities as mandated by law.

The CA decision, which was upheld by the SC, sustained the decision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The DENR had ruled that MWSS and the two firms should pay P29.4 million in fines for the period starting May 7 to Sept. 30, 2009, and P200 per day thereafter for continued non-compliance with the law.



SC imposes P2-B fine on MWSS, water firms

By JOEL R. SAN JUAN @jrspanjuan1573

THE Supreme Court, voting 14-0, has directed the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and concessionaires Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. to pay a fine amounting to almost P2 billion for violation of the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 9275, or the Philippine Clean Water Act.

16%

The completion rate of private water concessionaires for building sewage facilities, as discovered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in 2009. At that pace, they expected to fully comply with the Clean Water Act only by 2030



The unanimous decision penned by Associate Justice Ramon Paul Hernando was reached by the magistrates during their regular en banc session held on Tuesday.

MWSS, Maynilad and Manila Water affirmed the Court of Appeals decision which found them liable for violation of Section 8 of

the Philippine Clean Water Act.

The said provision requires MWSS and the two concessionaires to provide wastewater treatment facilities and to connect sewage lines in all establishments, including households, to an available sewerage system within five years upon the effectivity of RA 9275 on

March 6, 2004.

The Court's ruling specifically states that "Maynilad shall be jointly and severally liable with the MWSS for a total amount of P921,464,184," and "Manila Water Co. Inc. shall be jointly and severally liable with MWSS for the same amount."

The Court said the amount covers the period from May 2009 to date of promulgation.

The petitioners are given 15 days upon receipt of the decision to pay the fine.

SEE "MWSS," A2

MWSS...

CONTINUED FROM A1

A fine of P322,102 a day subject to further 10-percent increase every two years as provided under Section 28 of RA 9275 would be imposed against the petitioners until they have fully complied with the decision.

The Court also imposed a legal interest of 6 percent per year until the decision is fully satisfied.

DENR discovery

THE case stemmed from the discovery by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in 2009 that the MWSS and the water concessionaires were just 16 percent done in building sewage

facilities and that they expected to be able to fully comply with the law by 2030.

The failure of these agencies to put up sewage facilities, according to the DENR then led by Secretary Lito Atienza, is a major factor in the deterioration of the Manila Bay.

In 2008, the Supreme Court ordered the DENR and other concerned government agencies to restore Manila Bay to a condition suitable for public bathing and swimming and for breeding *bangus* (milkfish) and similar fish species.

This led to the DENR's imposition of fines against the three water firms, prompting them to elevate the matter before the Court of Appeals (CA) and then to the Supreme Court, which both ruled against the petitioners.



SC to Maynilad, Manila Water: Pay P1.8B fines

By HECTOR LAWAS

THE Supreme Court yesterday ordered water concessionaires Maynilad Water Services and Manila Water to pay some P1.8 billion in fines for non-compliance with the Clean Water Act.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) was made jointly and severally liable with the two water companies.

Voting 14-0, the SC denied the petitions filed by

Maynilad, Manila Water, and MWSS questioning the decision of the Court of Appeals, which imposed fines for failure to put up sewage lines and sewage treatment facilities.

SC Public Information Office chief Atty. Brian Keith Hosaka said in a statement:

"Please be informed upon verification of the consolidated cases of Maynilad Water Services Inc. vs. The Secretary of DENR, et al. GR Noz 202897, Manila Water Co. Inc. vs The Sec. of DENR et al, GR No. 206823, and Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System vs. The Pollution Adjudication Board, et al, GR No. 207969, I would like to confirm that the Supreme Court, through a decision penned by J. Ramon Paul L. Hernando and with a vote of 14-0, denied the Petitions filed by the Petitioners and affirmed the Decisions of the Court of Appeals in CA GR SP Nos 13374, 112023,

and 112041. Hence, Petitioners are found liable for violation of Sec 8 of the Philippine Clean Water Act as follows:

1. Maynilad shall be jointly and severally liable with the MWSS for a total amount of P921,464,184 covering the period 05/07/09 to date of promulgation.

2. Manila Water Co. Inc shall be jointly and severally liable with MWSS for the same amount and period.

3. Shall pay the fine within 15 days from receipt of the Decision.

4. From receipt of the decision until Petitioners have fully paid the amount stated in 1 and 2, petitioners shall be fined the initial amount of P322,102.00/day subject to further 10% increase every two years as provided under Sec. 28 of the Phil Clean Water Act, until full compliance with Sec 8 of the same law.

5. Legal interest of 6% per annum until fully satisfied."



P2B fine imposed on MWSS, Maynilad, Manila Water

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and two water concessionaires to pay fines of almost P2 billion for non-compliance with the Clean Water Act.

In its unanimous ruling, the Court, through Associate Justice Ramon Paul Hernando, ordered Maynilad and MWSS to jointly and severally pay

P921,464,184 for the period of May 7, 2009 to date of promulgation.

The same amount of fine is required for Manila Water to be paid jointly and severally with MWSS.

Both concessionaires are required to pay the fine within 15 days from receipt of the decision, high court's Information Chief and Spokesman Atty. Brian Keith Hosaka

said.

From receipt of the decision until fully paid, the petitioners shall be fined the initial amount of P322,102.00 per day subject to 10 percent increase every two years as provided under the Clean Water Act.

The Court added that a six percent per annum shall also be applied until fully satisfied. — *Inquirer*



Solon wants no more garbage coming to PH

A CONGRESSWOMAN from Mindanao has refiled her bill that bans both the import and export of waste of whatever kind and hopes that President Rodrigo Duterte will be like-minded and certify the bill as urgent.

"I will also file other bills on plastic waste, waste redemption, waste recovery, and the proper management of our water and aquatic resources. This is an all-out war on waste because we want our country to be beautiful and prosperous," Misamis Oriental Rep. Juliet T. Uy said.

Uy requested the leaders of the House of Representatives to ask the President to certify the bill as urgent.

However, the committees in the House have yet to be filled while the panel that will tackle the bill has not been constituted.

In a statement, Uy also asked the Bureau of Customs anew to make sure imported garbage does not arrive at any of the country's international seaports aside from the Port of Tagoloan.

The Customs bureau's mandate is to inspect cargo that arrive at the ports and not to monitor what cargoes are being sent from abroad since the government stopped its arrangement with Societe General du Surveillance many years ago.

Maricel V. Cruz



Garbage hauling in Metro Manila in 2018 cost P6.38B

BY PETER TABINGO

METRO Manila had to cough up a whopping P6.384 billion in 2018 to haul away trash generated by industries and 14 million residents, documents submitted to the Commission on Audit (COA) indicate.

This was revealed in the breakdown of Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses declared in the financial statements of 16 cities and one municipality comprising the National Capital Region (NCR). The financial statements were attached to the audit reports of each local government unit (LGU).

Garbage hauling expenses are listed under the LGUs' Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE)

as "environment/sanitary services."

The 2018 total of P6.384 billion was P870.19 million higher than the P5.514 billion that the region paid to hauling contractors in 2017.

Quezon City took the biggest hit, spending P1.615 billion in 2018 compared to just P1.129 billion the year before, or an increase of P486.115 million.

The City of Manila was a distant second placer, shelling out P610.23 million in 2018, up by P38.218 million compared to 2017's bill of P572.013 million.

At the opposite end are Muntinlupa City, which shaved its environmental/sanitary services expenses by P15.199 million, from P257.83 million in 2017 to P242.63 million in

2018; and Parañaque City whose expenses dropped from P416.729 million in 2017 to P410.913 million last year, or a decrease of P5.815 million.

Culled from the submitted 2018 financial statements and stacked by order of their trash hauling expenses, the Metro Manila LGUs are: Quezon City, 2018 – P1.615 billion (2017 – P1.129 billion); Manila, 2018 – P654.658 million (2017 – P604.997 million); Caloocan City, 2018 – P610.23 million (2017 – P572.013 million); Makati City, 2018 – P533.297 million (2017 – P418.515 million); Taguig City, 2018 – P463.806 million (2017 – P436.769 million); Pasig City, 2018 – P411.368 million (2017 – P379.725 million).

Parañaque City, 2018 – P410.913

million (2017 – P416.729 million); Pasay City, 2018 – P381.084 million (2017 – P380.094 million); Mandaluyong City, 2018 – P294.537 million (2017 – P210.669 million); Muntinlupa City, 2018 – P242.634 million (2017 – P257.833 million); Marikina City, 2018 – P178.734 million (2017 – P147.657 million); Valenzuela City, 2018 – P170.626 million (2017 – P165.425 million); Las Piñas City, 2018 – P141.19 million

(2017 – P134.07 million); Malabon City, 2018 – P118.07 million (2017 – P116.991 million); San Juan City, 2018 – P93.459 million (2017 – P86.4 million); Navotas City, 2018 – P46.367 million (2017 – P43.188 million); municipality of Pateros, 2018 – P17.64 million (2017 – P13.466 million).



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Pansin sa Leonel Waste Management sa Taguig City

Magandang araw BAYANG PILIPINAS, sa MASANG PINOY, sa mga KABABAYAN kong mga TAGUIGENO at sa mga ka-TXT BRIGADE. LEONEL WASTE MANAGEMENT. Bilang isang mamamayan ng LUNGSOD ng TAGUIG, DISTRICT I at isang MOTORISTA ay tinatawagan ko po ng pansin ang pangasiwaan ng LEONEL. Ito po ang nangongolekta ng BASURA sa aming LUNGSOD. Sa mga nakalipas na PANAHON ay okay at maganda ang kanilang SERBISYO. Pero ngayon ay malaki na ang pinagiba at pinagbago ng kanilang paghahakot ng BASURA. Dati ang lugar na kanilang hinakutan ay kanila munang nililinis at winawalisang mabuti bago tuluyang iwan ang lugar. Ngayon, wala na. Iniiwanan nila ang lugar na may mga nakakalat pang mga basura. - Concerned citizen



P6.3B gastos sa basura ng NCR

Ni Leifbilly Begas

UMABOT sa P6.38 bilyon ang ginastos sa basura ng 16 siyudad at isang bayan sa Metro Manila noong nakaraang taon.

Mas mataas ito ng P870.19 milyon sa P5.514 bilyong ginastos noong 2017, batay sa Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses ng mga lokal na pamahalaan.

Ang Quezon City ang may pinakamalaking ginastos na umabot sa P1.615 bilyon. Noong 2017 ang ginastos nito ay

P1.129 bilyon.

Sumunod naman ang Manila na tumaa sa P610.23 milyon ang ginastos mula sa P572.013 milyon.

Bumaba naman ang gastos ng Muntinlupa at mula P257.83 milyon noong 2017 ay naging P242.63 milyon lamang noong nakaraang taon. Gayundin ang Parañaque City na bumaba sa P410.913 milyon mula sa P416.729 milyon.

Narito ang listahan ng gastos sa basura ng mga siyudad sa Kamaynilaan:

| 2018 | 2017 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Quezon City P1.615 bilyon | P1.129 bilyon |
| 2. Manila P654.658 milyon | P604.997 milyon |
| 3. Caloocan City P610.23 milyon | P572.013 milyon |
| 4. Makati City P533.297 milyon | P418.515 milyon |
| 5. Taguig City P463.806 milyon | P436.769 milyon |
| 6. Pasig City P411.368 milyon | P379.725 milyon |
| 7. Parañaque City P410.913 milyon | P416.729 milyon |
| 8. Pasay City P381.084 milyon | P380.094 milyon |
| 9. Mandaluyong City P294.537 milyon | P210.669 milyon |
| 10. Muntinlupa City P242.634 milyon | P257.833 milyon |
| 11. Marikina City P178.734 milyon | P147.657 milyon |
| 12. Valenzuela City P170.626 milyon | P165.425 milyon |
| 13. Las Piñas City P141.19 milyon | P134.07 milyon |
| 14. Malabon City P118.07 milyon | P116.991 milyon |
| 15. San Juan City P93.459 milyon | P86.4 milyon |
| 16. Navotas City P46.367 milyon | P43.188 milyon |
| 17. Pateros P17.64 milyon | P13.466 milyon. |



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PAPERLESS HOUSE. House Majority Leader and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez (center) with Senior Deputy Majority Leader Rep. Boying Remulla (left) and Deputy Majority Leader Rep. Sharky Palma (right) answer questions from Congress Media during the First Majority Press Conference at the House of Representatives. Romualdez has bared that Congress plans to digitized operation in Committee and Plenary levels for transparency and efficiency. The paperless system also aims to save money spend on printing cost. **Ver Noveno**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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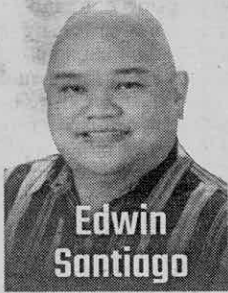
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TALAGA BA?



**Edwin
Santiago**

TWITTER: @edsa_manila

Mahaba-habang panahon na nating napapakinggan—at marahil binabalewala—ang mga babala hinggil sa ating kalikasan.

Paulit-ulit na nagkaroon ng mga pahayag ng pagtutol laban sa mga

mapaminsalang kagawian ng pagmimina sa ating kalikasan, sa mga tao, lalo na sa mga katutubo. Ngunit, sa kabila ng ganitong kaalaman, patuloy tayong umaasa sa paggamit ng karbon (coal) para sa ating pangangailangan sa enerhiya. Sa halip na bumababa ang bilang ng mga ganitong planta, tinatayang tataas pa ito sa dami ng 28 sa taong 2020, mula sa 23 sa kasaluluyan.

Malaking bahagi na ating pagsasawalang-bahala sa mga babala ay marahil ang napaka-responsableng pananaw na ang kalikasan ay pag-aari ng tao at bukod tayo lamang ang dapat makinabang sa anumang biyaya na galing sa kanya.

Patuloy na nawawasak ang tahanan nating lahat.

Higit na mataas ang dapat na binibigay nating pag-aalaga at atensyon sa ating kalikasan sa Pilipinas dahil (1) ang pagkasira ng kalikasan ay nagdudulot ng matinding kahirapan, at ang (2) pagtindi ng kahirapan naman ay nagdudulot din ng matinding pagkasira ng kalikasan.

Ilang mga pag-aaral na ang nailathala hinggil sa pagkilala sa Pilipinas bilang pangalawa sa mga bansang malaki ang pagkakalantad sa mga pinsala na maaaring magdudulot ng malawakang sakuna o maging banta sa ating pag-iral bilang isang bansa.

Si Pope Francis, noong

2015, ay naglabas ng isang papel na pang-ukol, ang Laudato Si' o 'On Care for Our Common Home'. Nakasaad dito ang mga magiging implikasyon ng tinatawag na 'climate change' sa ating lahat sa pagkat ang banta ay para sa ating iisang tahanan.

Bukod sa pahayag ni Pope Francis, nagpahayag din si Pangulong Duterte sa kanyang SONA na pagkilala sa pangangailangang bawasan ang paggamit ng karbon at sa halip bilisan ang paglipat sa mga pinagkukunan ng enerhiya sa tinawag na 'renewable energy'.

Pereho dapat may timbang ang kanilang mga sinabi. Si Pope Francis, bilang ama ng mga Katoliko sa buong mundo.

Si Duterte, bilang isang napaka-popular na Presidente. Subalit, nasaan ang malawakang tugon sa kanilang mga sinabi?

Talaga bang wala tayong pakialam? Marahil ang iniisip ng iba ay kaya nilang talunin ang puwersa ng kalikasan, maaari silang mangibang bayan, o sadyang sa pakiramdamdang nila ay wala na tayong magagawa.

Kung ang ating mga pinuno ay may naitatabi pang malasakit para sa bayan, sa kanilang mga pamilya, o sa sangkatauhan, ngayon na ang tamang oras para kumilos. Bagama't ayon sa mga siyentipiko, dapat noon pa, hindi pa huli ang lahat.

Makinig na! Kumilos na! Now na!



7 TONELADANG FOSSILIZED GIANT

CLAMS NABAWI SA NORTH NEGOCC

NABAWI ang halos pitong toneladang fossilized giant clams (*Tridacna gigas*) na nagkakahalaga ng PHP28 milyon ng awtoridad sa Escalante City, Negros Occidental kamakailan.

Ayon sa report na inilabas ng Negros Occidental Police Provincial Office, natagpuan ang mga fossilized giant clams sa bahay ni Jasper Bacaron sa Hacienda Juliana sa Barangay Washington bandang alas-5 ng hapon noong Agosto 2.

Ininspeksiyon ang lugar ng mga tauhan ng Escalante City Police Station na pinangunahan ni Lt. Col. Necerato Sabando Jr., Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources- Negros Occidental provincial direc-

tor Marian Jill Abeto, at Escalante City Executive Assistant Rolen Cabus.

Ayon sa police report, ikinumpisal ni Bacaron kay Cabus na ang may-ari o buyer na kasalukuyang pang pinaghahanap ay residente ng Barangay Vito sa kalapit na siyudad ng Sagay.

Hindi na inaresto si Bacaron dahil kusang loob niyang isinuko ang giant clams sa mga pulis.

Inilagay ang mga nabawing fossilized giant clams sa kustodiya ng BFAR-Provincial Fishery Office sa siyudad na ito.

Ang "Tridacna gigas", na kilala sa tawag na "manlot" o "taklobo", ang pinakamalaking buhay na hindi gumagawalaw na bivalve molusk sa mundo. Ito ay

makikilala na pinakamahirang species ng International Union for Conservation of Nature dahil ito ay nahaharap na sa high risk na maaaring mawala na.

Nitong Abril 2019, inaresto ang tatlong residente ng Sagay City nakinasuhan dahil sa pagtatago ng halos 1.5 tonelada ng fossilized giant clams.

Mayroon sila umanong buyer na nagalok na bumili ng clams sa halagang PHP1,000 bawat kilo.

Ayon sa Section

102 ng Republic Act 10654 o binagong Philippine Fisheries Code ng 1998 na ilegal ang manguha, mamingwit, mag-ani, magbenta, bumili, magtago, magbiyahe, mag-export, mag-forward o maglabas ng aquatic species na nakalista sa Appendix I ng Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, o ang mga nasa kategorya ng International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. **PNA**





Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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THE EXPONENTIAL GROWTH OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS SINCE 1900

MANILA BULLETIN

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New mayors can help with flood project problems

TRAFFIC came to a virtual standstill in many parts of Metro Manila last Friday. The reason was flooding that left many streets impassable, although the rains that fell were not particularly heavy.

Flooding has long been a problem in Manila, partly because the city lies between Manila Bay and the surrounding hills of Quezon City and other cities and towns to the north, east, and south. Within Manila itself, there are many low-lying areas toward which flood waters naturally flow when it rains.

Over the years, many flood control projects have been constructed all over the city. Beneath the entire length of España is a tunnel through which water from the north flows to the Pasig, on to the bay. But the rains last Friday flooded España and forced traffic to a standstill. Some street drains may have been blocked by garbage that had accumulated during the dry months.

A report of the Commission on Audit (COA) provides one major reason for the continued flooding in parts of the city. The commission said the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) had approved 170 flood control projects for 2018

with a total budget of ₱878 million, but only 53 – less than one-third – were actually completed.

The 117 that could not be completed were plagued by inadequate planning and inadequate coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways and with the various local government units concerned. Thus only 53 projects, with budgets totaling ₱273 million, were completed. These are the ones now working to avert flooding in Manila but they evidently cannot cope with it.

The newly elected mayors of Manila and the other Metro cities are facing many problems, with two of them – garbage and traffic due to streets blocked by illegal parking – recently in the news. President Duterte himself has taken it upon himself to direct local governments to act on these two specific problems.

The start of the rainy season has now exposed this additional problem of flooding, for which there is already an overall plan with actual appropriations. The new mayors should see what they can do to help the MMDA solve the problems that blocked the completion of 117 flood control projects in 2018.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENTIAL OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS SINCE 1900

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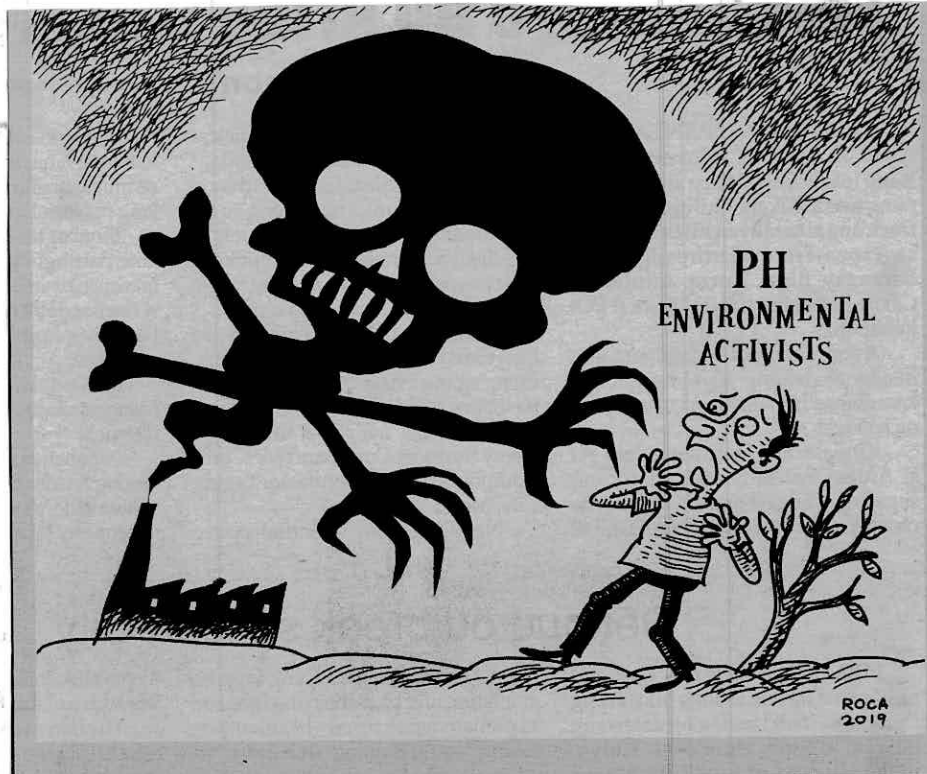
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EDITORIAL

Makatutulong ang mga bagong alkalde sa proyekto kontra baha

MATINDING trapik ang nararanasan sa maraming bahagi ng Metro Manila nitong Biyernes. Dulot ito ng pagbaha na dahilan kung bakit hindi maraan ang mga kalsada, sa kabila na hindi naman partikular na malakas ang bumuhos na ulan.

Matagal nang problema ng Maynila ang pagbaha, marahil dahil na rin nasa pagitan ito ng Manila Bay at ng napalilibutang mataas na bahagi ng Quezon City, at iba pang mga lungsod at bayan sa hilaga, silangan, at timog. Sa loob mismo ng Maynila, marami ang mabababang lugar kung saan napupunta ang mga baha na dumadaloy tuwing umuulan.

Sa mga nakalipas na taon, marami nang proyekto upang makontrol ang pagbaha ang binuo sa buong lungsod. Sa ilalim ng buong kahabaan ng España — ang tunnel kung saan dumadaloy ang mga tubig mula hilaga patungong Pasig, hanggang sa look. Ngunit ang ulan nitong Biyernes, ang nagdulot ng pagbaha sa España at nagdulot ng matinding trapik. Maaaring barado na naman ng mga basura ang mga drainage sa mga kalsada, na naipon noong tagtuyot.

Isang ulat mula sa Commission on Audit (COA) ang nagbigay ng isang pangunahing rason ng nagpapatuloy na pagbaha sa maraming bahagi ng siyudad. Ayon sa komisyon, inaprubahan ng Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) ang nasa 170 flood control projects para sa 2018 na may kabuuang pondo na P878 milyon, ngunit tanging 53 — o wala pang 33 porsiyento ang natapos.

Hindi natapos ang nasa 117 na binalahaw ng kulang na pagpapalano at kulang na koordinasyon sa Department of Public Works and Highways kasama ang iba't ibang lokal na pamahalaang sangkot. Dahil dito, 53 proyekto lamang, na may kabuuang pondo na P273 milyon, ang natapos. Ito ngayon ang tinatrabaho upang wakasan ang pagbaha sa Maynila ngunit malinaw na hindi ito kakayanin.

Maraming hinaharap na problema ang bagong halal na alkalde ng Maynila at iba pang mga siyudad sa Metro, dalawa dito ang — basura at trapik dulot ng ma lansangan na hinarangan ng mga ilegal na nakaparadang mga sasakyan — na laman ng balita kamakailan. Mismong si Pangulong Duterte naman ang nag-utos sa mga lokal na pamahalaan na umaksyon sa dalawang espesipikong suliranin na ito.

Isiniwalat ng pagsisimula ng panahon ng pag-ulan ang dagdag na problema ng pagbaha, na mayroon nang kabuuang plano at aktuwal na pondong inilaan. Dapat suriin ng mga bagong alkalde kung ano ang kanilang magagawa upang matulungan ang MMDA na masolusyunan ang problema na humarang sa pagtatapos sana ng 117 flood control projects noong 2018.



Duterte OKs P4.1-T budget for 2020

**By Julie M. Aurelio,
Leila B. Salaverria and DJ Yap**
@Team_Inquirer

President Duterte has approved the P4.1-trillion proposed national budget for 2020, which the Department of Budget and Management intends to submit to the House of Representatives before Aug. 21.

Malacañang made the announcement after the President presided over a Cabinet meeting on Monday night.

Next year's proposed budget

is 12 percent higher than the 2019 budget of P3.662 trillion.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said education would get the biggest slice of the budget, followed by public works, transportation and health.

"This budget proposal is designed to respond to the needs of the majority of our countrymen longing to be uprooted from the decades of want of basic necessities, inadequate supply of basic services, lack of infrastructure required to spur

economic growth, absence of accountability on government coffers, vexing bureaucratic rigmarole, deprived education and unchanged poverty, and geared to achieve a more peaceful and progressive Philippines where the living standards of Filipinos are raised," Panelo said.

Questionable adjustments

The House wants to pass the 2020 national budget by October, while the Senate wants it approved by December this year.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, howev-

er, warned that if the House wanted the final version of the 2020 budget bill approved early, it should not make questionable adjustments to the spending measure.

The 2019 national budget's passage was delayed by an impasse among lawmakers over alleged illegal insertions and realignments, forcing the government to operate on a reenacted budget for the first four months of the year.

The President signed the 2019 budget in April.

Lacson said the swift approval of the budget would depend on the House version.

"If they do not tinker with it too much, [its approval] would be quick," he told reporters.

"But if we see that the budget of the agencies would turn up in the districts, we cannot promise an easy approval. It's up to them to pass the budget on time or not," Lacson said.

But a House leader said on Tuesday that the appointment of former Davao City administrator Wendel Avisado as acting

budget secretary bodes well for the swift and early passage of the proposed 2020 budget.

Majority Leader Martin Romualdez expressed confidence that Avisado would contribute to ensuring the smooth sailing enactment of next year's spending bill, which has yet to be formally submitted to Congress.

Romualdez said he was confident that Avisado would help introduce reforms in the national budget and meet the House's target of passing the spending bill by Oct. 5. INQ



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CARTOON

07 AUG 2019

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Duterte OKs ₱4.1-trillion budget for 2020

By GENALYN D. KABILING

The proposed ₱4.1-trillion national budget for 2020 has been approved by President Duterte to sustain the government's programs on infrastructure development, poverty alleviation, and social services, among others.

The budget proposal, which seeks to respond to the needs of the Filipino people, was tackled and approved during the Cabinet meeting convened by the President in Malacañang Monday.

"We wish to inform the public that President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, to-

gether with the members of the Cabinet, approved tonight the ₱4.1 Trillion National Budget for Fiscal Year 2020," Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said late Monday night.

"This budget proposal is designed to respond to the needs of the majority of our countrymen longing to be uprooted from the decades of want of basic necessities, inadequate supply of basic services, lack of infrastructures required to spur economic growth, absence of accountability on government coffers, vexing bureaucratic rigmarole, deprived education ►11

Duterte OKs ₱4.1-trillion... ◀1

and unchanged poverty, and geared to achieve a more peaceful and progressive Philippines where the living standards of Filipinos are raised," he added.

According to Panelo, the bulk of the proposed national budget will go to education and infrastructure investments.

"We assure everyone that our people's money, with education receiving the biggest slice of the budget, followed by public works, transportation, and

health, will be spent wisely to reach a state of vibrant economy that will be felt by the citizenry," he said.

The proposed 2020 national budget will be higher than the 2019 General Appropriations Act (GAA) of P3.7 trillion. The Department of Budget and Management earlier committed to submit the proposed budget within 30 days of the opening of Congress.

The President's economic team had earlier said the 2020 budget proposal will also fund the government's prior-

ity programs such as the Bangsamoro Organic Law, the Universal Healthcare Law, the institutionalization of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), among other measures to promote economic and human capital development.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to build a more dynamic and competitive economy, one that will provide jobs to our workers, improve the living conditions of the poor, and create more opportunities for all law-abiding Filipinos," a recent joint statement of the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) read.



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Duterte approves P4.1-T 2020 budget

By **EDITH REGALADO**
and **CHRISTINA MENDEZ**

President Duterte has approved the P4.1-trillion national budget proposal for 2020, paving the way for its timely submission to Congress and possibly its enactment by October this year as planned.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo announced the approval of the national budget proposal following the 40th Cabinet meeting the other night.

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Duterte From Page 1

"We wish to inform the public that President Duterte, together with the members of the Cabinet, approved tonight (Monday) the P4.1-trillion national budget for fiscal year 2020," Panelo said in a statement before dawn yesterday.

"We assure everyone that our people's money, with education receiving the biggest slice of the budget, followed by public works, transportation and health, will be spent wisely to reach a state of vibrant economy that will be felt by the citizenry," Panelo said.

Newly appointed budget chief and former Davao City administrator Wendel Avisado was at the Cabinet meeting – his first – when the allocation program for next year was approved by the President.

The proposed appropriation is higher than the P3.757-trillion budget for this year.

"This budget proposal is designed to respond to the needs of the majority of our countrymen longing to be uprooted from the decades of want of basic necessities, inadequate supply of basic services, lack of infrastructure required to spur economic growth, absence of accountability on government coffers, vexing bureaucratic rigmarole, deprived education and unchanged poverty and geared to achieve a more peaceful and progressive Philippines

where the living standards of Filipinos are raised," Panelo pointed out.

Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano said Congress expects to receive the budget program from Malacañang next week or between Aug. 16 and 20 as previously agreed upon with executive officials.

At the Cabinet meeting on Monday, Land Bank of the Philippines' president and CEO Cecilia Borromeo and Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III discussed the bank's action plan to intensify lending to the agriculture sector.

The President wanted the National Economic and Development Authority to do a study – together with the Department of Agrarian Reform – on the impact of amending Memorandum Circular No. 28, which allows farmers to use their Certificate of Land Ownership Award as an instrument to obtain loans but with restrictions.

Also at the meeting, Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) commissioner Ceasar Dulay and deputy commissioner Arnel Guballa shared updates on the tax collection from Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGO).

Through an inter-agency task force composed of the BIR, DOJ, Bureau of Immigration, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency and



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Department of Labor and Employment, Panelo said the government was able to issue tax identification numbers to foreign workers, and as a result collect taxes from them. The Department of Foreign Affairs expects collection of P2 billion from POGO operations.

Education Secretary Leonor Briones, for her part, discussed the department's aim of reaching out to far-flung schools through its Last Mile Schools Program.

Revenue source needed

In preparation for the presentation of the budget, Cayetano said he is rushing the organization of the committee on appropriations and the committee on ways and means.

"We cannot pass the budget

without accompanying revenue measures," he said.

He added he would also confer with appropriations committee chairman Isidro Ungab "regarding the scheduling of hearings."

"One of our innovations is that we will have more simultaneous hearings and we will ask the congressmen to focus on certain areas, rather than one congressman attending five to eight hearings. I'll ask them to hone their expertise in two-three hearings," he added.

Cayetano pointed out that the House would hold hearings on Thursdays and Fridays, if necessary, to meet its self-imposed deadline of approving the proposed 2020 budget before Congress goes on its first recess on Oct. 5.

He stressed that the House and the Senate would avoid

the three-month delay that marred the enactment of the 2019 outlay.

Ungab said his committee would hold one hearing on the macro-economic parameters President Duterte's economic managers used in putting together the P4.1-trillion budget proposal.

"After that, we could ask the subcommittees to go full-blast on their examination of the proposals of their assigned agencies. We will definitely pass the budget on time," he said.

"The House will try to approve the budget by Oct. 5," ways and means committee chairman Rep. Joey Salceda said at a press conference after Monday's meeting.

Salceda also said that as agreed with executive officials, Congress would focus on priority bills - alcohol tax bill, public

service law amendment bill, bill creating Department of Overseas Filipino Workers and the corporate income tax and incentives rationalization act (CITIRA).

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, meanwhile, vowed to scrutinize the 2020 budget program as the administration-dominated House of Representatives is poised to speed up passage of the national expenditure program measure.

"Of course, I for one will be there to scrutinize as I always do. I'll not be remiss in our duty to scrutinize the budget," Lacson said.

Sought for comment on pronouncements by some congressmen to rush the passage of the budget, Lacson said there is no guarantee that would happen.

"It depends. Don't tinker with it and it will get passed easily. But if we see budgets of agencies getting moved and reappearing in districts, then we can't promise that they'll be approved right away," he said in Filipino. "It's on them to pass the budget on time or not."

Lacson said he has been vocal about the need to scrutinize the proposed national budget, which is the lifeblood of a nation.

He cited as an example the reported overstocking of medicines at the Department of Health amounting to P3 billion in taxpayers' money. The losses could be higher, he said. - With Jess Diaz, Edu Punay, Cecille Suerte Felipe



Editor: RAMON M. LIM

CTALK CITO BELTRAN

'Trees'

Many, many years ago, I worked for a retired CEO abroad who lived and owned a 350-acre residential compound. As a live-in employee, I was asked to source a company who could undertake the trimming and treatment of apple trees and several big old trees as well. The job was fairly easy but I confess that it was the first time I ever heard of such a service. After a couple of weeks, I managed to get three offers all of which were submitted to the owner's office. Not long after, the winning bidder got the green light to commence with their work at the cost of \$14,000. By then I really did not have much to do with the people doing the job except to see how far they got each day and how soon they would be finished. I eventually found out the hard way that the job was done when my employer got the \$14,000 bill and nearly had a heart attack. My guess is he must have misread the figure as \$1,400 instead of 14K and approved the contract without a second glance. Needless to say, someone needed to be blamed and that honor fell on my lap.



I of course, could not understand why I was getting dumped on considering the quotations were quite simple and clear. Not only did the service include the trimming of an entire apple orchard and over a dozen big old trees, the service also included reconditioning or replacing lightning rods and arrestors on all the trees that could be potential magnets for lightning strikes that could kill the trees. Just so you know, pruning or trimming trees abroad is not the same as the wanton mutilation of trees done here in the Philippines every time a tree threatens or rubs against the power line or the gutter of a house. It is the big boy version of trimming a Bonsai plant. You selectively choose which parts to cut based on design or intention. Are you preventing the tree branches from spreading out too far, growing to high, or becoming top heavy? Then after you've done all the cutting, you go in again to place medicines that prevent fungus, rot or any other form of infection and finally you give each tree a liberal dose of nutrients in order to recover from all the pruning and trimming.

In any case, little did I know that I was apparently being considered for termination due to the "unusually large expense just to pretty up the apple orchard" even if it was not my idea in the first place. By coincidence a week or two before that could have happened, a hurricane blew into town and massacred just about every tree in our neighborhood, all of them big and small, except for "The pretty orchard that cost \$14,000". Because all the trees had been trimmed short, they did not catch the hurricane force winds. The added bonus was that the treatment was so good that the orchard produced a bumper crop of apples that year enough to produce a year's supply of home-made apple cider for my employer. The funny part was the strange compliment I received when my employer said "Good thing you had the trees trimmed and treated or we would have had no trees left in the property".

That mixed bag of experience taught me a life lesson on the need to trim trees. We are now in that season when coming typhoons will surely bring lots of damage and destruction to those trees we all love. On the next dry and sunny day you get, please make sure you find someone to trim the trees before a typhoon cuts them down.

Given all the reports, allegations and perhaps even rumor mongering concerning the influx, occupation and out of control presence of Chinese nationals in the Philippines, perhaps it is time for the President to order the establishment of a "one-stop shop" or dedicated task force that will oversee, investigate and regulate the presence of Chinese nationals in the Philippines including their investments or business operations. Things are getting quite out of hand and military and intelligence authorities are already raising the "red flag" of warning that if we don't do something about it, we might find ourselves literally overrun and economically controlled by the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

The most recent cause of concern by local security officials were claims that three islands northwest of the Philippines including Fuga island were under serious consideration by Chinese resort developers. Then there is the Facebook post featuring Covelandia in Cavite that allegedly is being developed to house thousands of Chinese employees for offshore gaming. Before that there was the concern aired by ret. General Hermogenes Esperon calling out the risk or potential threat poised by several hundred thousand Chinese "tourists" or POGO workers. But the biggest problem in all of this is the fact that government response to these concerns can be labeled as scatterbrained or uncoordinated. Military and security consultants say one thing, the Department of Foreign Affairs has a different assessment, and the DOJ/ Bureau of Immigration has a different approach or perspective and all three of them hardly achieve anything.

There is no denying that the flood of Chinese workers and tourists is now a very serious threat that needs to be addressed. If Malacañang has various cabinet clusters that tackle serious concerns, then its time to put up one to deal with the population explosion of Chinese visitors and illegal workers. Friend or no friend, let us not repeat what happened in the last big war when Filipinos woke up one day to find themselves taken over by Japanese imperial soldiers led by guys who used to be their gardener, driver, or grocer. Regulate now or regret later!





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07 AUG 2013

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Senator pushes for disaster management department

By **MARIO B. CASAYURAN**

Opposition Senator Francis N. Pangilinan pressed Tuesday for the creation of a Department of Disaster and Emergency Management (DDEM) after the country was ranked as the third most disaster-prone country in the world.

The Philippines, according to Pangilinan, regularly suffers from typhoons, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, not to mention the occasional drought, epidemic, El Niño, and La Niña, as well as the staple flooding.

"Yet our country does not have a point person for disasters," he said.

Pangilinan filed Senate Bill 39 that seeks to establish the DDEM with a calamity fund of P20 billion or at least one percent of the estimated government revenue, whichever is higher.

"These past several days alone, we experienced a series of calamities. On July 27, Batanes suffered an earthquake that killed five and destroyed heritage houses and churches. And this departing tropical storm Hanna brought rains and caused flashfloods and landslides. More than twenty of our countrymen died when three boats capsized in

Iloilo)," Pangilinan said.

"But while we have a National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), composed of several interacting agencies sharing the responsibility for disaster risk reduction and management and overseeing the national system, no one is overall in charge. We want disaster-prone Philippines to have a disaster-buster," he said.

He said former senator Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito filed a similar bill in the 17th Congress.

Pangilinan noted that since 1990, the Philippines has had 565 natural disasters that left almost 70,000 dead and an estimated \$23 billion in damage.

Among the deadliest and costliest were super typhoon "Yolanda" in 2013, the Luzon earthquake of 1990, and the Pinatubo eruption of 1991.

"More than half of the country's total land area is exposed to multiple hazards and 74 percent of the population is vulnerable to their impact. And with the climate crisis, we should expect that number to go higher," he said.

The new department will focus on and integrate disaster risk reduc-

tion and management and climate change adaptation.

Aside from taking over the responsibilities of the NDRRMC, the new department shall also assume the powers and functions of the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD).

Among its mandates are:

- Review the National Building Code and Fire Code.

- Develop, update, and maintain a national geographic information system.

- Develop national, regional, and local disaster protocols and contingency plans.

- Develop and implement community-based and scientific hazard assessment and mapping.

- Draft a manual of operations for volunteers.

- Manage donations.

- Identify, establish, and maintain evacuation centers.

"The proposed law seeks to promote a "strategic, comprehensive, and integrated approach" to disaster risk reduction and management because we want to substantially reduce our vulnerabilities to disasters and other emergencies," Pangilinan said.

A call for healthy, blue oceans in Asia and the Pacific

BY ARMIDA SALSIAH
ALISJAHBANA

BANGKOK, Thailand: Leaders at the Group of 20 summit last month agreed on the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision," which aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050. The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap) stands ready to support Japan and other countries in the region to ensure healthy and sustainable oceans.

Approximately 8 million tons of plastic leaks out of the global economy and into the oceans each year. Asia and the Pacific is responsible for about 60 percent of the increase in global plastic production.

Without action, the world's oceans will contain nearly 250 million tons of plastic by 2025, further endangering our marine environment with a wide range of toxins and ultimately putting our own food sources at risk.

The commitment of G20 leaders, led by Japan, to tackle the proliferation of plastic litter through the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision aligns with the first target of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water), which

is to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution, by 2025.

G20 leaders also reiterated that measures to address marine litter need to be taken nationally and internationally by all countries in partnership with relevant stakeholders. In the Asia-Pacific region, several countries have already adopted plans to combat marine plastic debris by banning single-use plastics and enacting new recycling laws.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's launch of the "Marine Initiative" (focusing on management of wastes, recovery of marine litter, innovation and empowerment) at the G20 summit to support developing countries' efforts, including their capacity building and infrastructure development, in waste management is a good demonstration of the kind of regional cooperation on trans-boundary issues where Escap can play a key role.

Escap's next annual meeting, in May 2020, will feature the theme "Promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development." One possible outcome of

our deliberations is the creation of a voluntary "coalition of the willing" to reduce plastic marine pollution.

In a region already under stress from climate change, resource exploitation and population growth, healthy oceans mean jobs, food, identity and resilience for millions, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

The coalition would be a regional multi-stakeholder platform that would provide technical assistance and capacity building support. In line with the G20 approach, governments would be joined in this coalition by the private sector, civil society organizations, research and academic institutions, and representatives of the informal sector. These actors can all play a catalytic role for creative solutions.

Indeed, Japanese innovation can be applied to municipal recycling and composting. State-of-the-art solid waste management systems are being developed, underpinned by strong cooperation between national and local governments.

Even the organizing committee of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games has gotten into the act: It has a comprehensive sustainability plan inspired by the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) and includes such measures as extracting materials from discarded smartphones and other small electronic devices to make the Olympic medals.

Japan also is supporting the development of marine litter monitoring technology in cooperation with other Asian countries. Its authorities are working with producers to eliminate single-use plastics and promote biodegradable polymers.

The goal is to reduce the detrimental effects on marine and coastal ecosystems on which many livelihoods depend, crucial in a region where 200 million people are reliant on fisheries alone.

Japanese innovation and technology can contribute much to the region's solutions to eliminate plastics from our oceans. Through Escap, we can scale these efforts across the continent, working closely with our countries and partners to build a collective response to stop marine pollution in Asia and the Pacific and reclaim our "blue oceans." **IPS**

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap).



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UN sounds alarm bells

Global warming, rising political tensions dangerous but avoidable

We need rapid and deep change in how we do business, generate power, build cities and feed the world," he added

By Elmer N. Manuel

With temperature records being broken everywhere, United Nations (UN) Secretary General António Guterres sounded the alarm bell recently saying bold action is needed if the world intends to rein in climate change.

In a statement at the UN Headquarters in New York, Guterres gave a preview of the UN's upcoming Climate Action Summit noting that while there

have always been hot summers, this is "not the summer of our youth" but a climate emergency as the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) showed that 2019 had the hottest June ever with records broken from New Delhi to the Arctic Circle.

July, he said, is also on course to equal, or surpass the hottest month in recorded history, and 2015 to 2019 are likely to be the five hottest years on record.

"If we do not take action on climate change now, these extreme weather events are just the tip of the iceberg. And that iceberg is also rapidly

melting," he said.

The Climate Action Summit is slated 23 September in New York, with ticket entry for governments, business and civil society just "bold action and much greater ambition," according to Guterres.

This, he said, will be needed if the world is to limit temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avoid the worst impacts of climate change, by cutting 45 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

"Beautiful speeches", said Guterres, "are therefore not enough: leaders need to come to New York on September 23 with concrete plans to reach these goals."

The UN chief also noted that many

solutions are available and are already being implemented — these include the growing use of technology that is rendering renewable energy cheaper than fossil fuels; the planting of millions of trees to reverse deforestation, and remove carbon dioxide from the environment, the finance world increasingly pricing carbon risks into their decision-making process and calling on leaders to phase out fossil fuel subsidies; and leading businesses are recognizing that, in order to avoid huge losses, now is the time to move from the "grey," polluting economy, to the green economy.

"We need rapid and deep change in how we do business, generate power, build cities and feed the world," he added.

Guterres turned his attention to tensions in global politics, notably in the Persian Gulf,

friction between China and the US, and between nuclear-armed states and stressed that a minor miscalculation in the Persian Gulf could lead to a major confrontation.

Referring to recent incidents in the Strait of Hormuz — which include the diversion of a British-flagged oil tanker by Iran, the US destruction of an Iranian drone, and the UK decision to provide a naval escort for tankers — the UN chief stressed the need to respect the rights and duties related to navigation through the Strait, and its adjacent waters, in accordance with international law.





Editorial

National emissions study is long overdue

SEN. Sherwin Gatchalian is due for some well-deserved credit for proposing that a thorough inquiry into the Philippines' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions be carried out by the Senate.

Gatchalian, who is the chairman of the Senate energy committee, filed a resolution directing "the appropriate committee" to investigate the status of the country's GHG emissions, particularly in the context of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement to reduce harmful emissions globally.

Gatchalian's resolution came after President Rodrigo Duterte directed the Department of Energy to prioritize the development of more renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.

GHG are gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, which are produced primarily by burning fossil fuels, and have been conclusively proven to increase atmospheric temperatures. GHG work by trapping solar radiation, much like a greenhouse does, heating up the atmosphere and causing stronger storms, changing weather patterns, rising sea levels, and other destructive effects.

The Paris Agreement created in 2015 seeks to limit the rise in global average temperature to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by 2030. As its NDC, the Philippines was committed by the former Aquino administration to reduce its GHG emissions by 70 percent from its 2000 levels by the year 2030, but made this target subject to the country receiving external aid, presumably from big GHG emitters such as the US, China and the European Union.

At the time, many critics regarded Aquino's pledge as pointless grandstanding on a world stage. The selection of the year 2000 as a baseline for emissions measurements was entirely arbitrary, as that is the most recent year for which complete data is available. Making the emissions reduction pledge conditional also meant that unless another country intervened with financial or technical support, the Philippines could quite literally choose to do absolutely nothing to reduce its GHG emissions.

The Philippines' NDC already having been signed, left the Duterte administration in an awkward position: On the one hand, it was a cynical pledge that ought to have been repudiated, but to do so would have been an embarrassment to the country among the near-unanimous acceptance of the Paris Agreement by the rest of the world. Thus, President Duterte signed the NDC, and it was quickly ratified by the Senate in 2017. Under the treaty, the country now has until next year to submit its final NDC and plan for GHG emissions reductions.

Gatchalian's resolution pulls the somewhat dubious NDC back into the realm of reality, and could make it into a productive basis for efforts to reduce the country's environmental impact. It recognizes that even if the Philippines is not a significant contributor to GHG emissions on a global level, and even if the country has a legitimate expectation of assistance from countries that are heavy polluters, there is no reason why we should not make whatever efforts we can to curb emissions. Any progress in doing so would be beneficial, not only for the well-being of the Filipino people and our own environment, but for the country's international reputation.

In order to make those efforts, however, actions must be based on a thorough understanding of the current state of GHG emissions, accurate, up-to-date scientific data, and the status and results of existing emissions reduction policies and programs. That is the information Senator Gatchalian's proposed inquiry would seek to gather, and that is a worthwhile objective. We urge the Senate to quickly adopt the resolution and begin the recommended investigation so that more effective climate mitigation efforts can be developed and put into action.



TITLE:

SINASABING squall o tribunada (sa Ilokano) ang itinuturong naging sanhi ng disgrasya sa Guimaras na pumatay ng 31 katao mula sa tumaob na tatlong bangka sa gitna ng dagat.

Ang squall ay biglaang pagbuo ng tila signal no. 3 na bagyo na nagtatagal ng hanggang 30 minuto at may kasama pang hurricane o tornado, nararanasan ito kahit saan sa mga katubigan at karagatan ng bansa kaya naman napakadelikado ito sa mga maililiit na bangka.

Habang tanggap nating napakadelikado ang ganitong galaw ng kalikasan na tumatama rin maging sa kalupaan, dapat ding tingnan ang iba pang mga posibleng dahilan ng pagtaob at pagkasira ng mga bangka.

PARA LANG SA NAKALISTA

Kung susuriin ang mga pahayag mula sa mga tagaroon sa Guimaras at ilang awtoridad, lumilitaw ang isang problema sa danyos perwisyo.

Sinasabing ang mga nakalista lang na pasahero ang magkakaroon ng danyos perwisyo o babayaran ng mga mayari ng mga bangka.

Ngayon, mga Bro, ibig sabihin nito na may mga hindi nakalista.

Kung puno ang mga bangka, maaaring may overloading.

Karaniwan namang hindi inililista na pasahero ang mga bata na libre sa pamasaha.

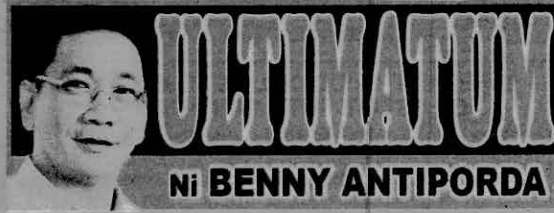
Meron ding nakikisakay lang na maaaring kamag-anak o kaibigan o kalugar ng mga operator o mga crew.

Kung sobra sa pasahero ang bangka, malaki talaga ang posibilidad na mas madaling madisgrasya ito kung may problema sa dagat at mismong bangka.

PROBLEMA SA DISENYO

Maaari namang may problema sa disenyo ng mga bangka.

Karaniwang may 1-2 piye lamang ang lapad ng sahig ng mga bangkang pandagat at marami sa mga ito ang gawa sa troso na tapyas sa gitna pahaba at dito na ikinakabit ang mga



Ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

DISENYO, OVERLOADING SA MGA BANGKA

dinding na karaniwang mga marine plywood.

Dahil mula sa troso, pabilog ang nakalapat sa tubig kaya naman kinakailangan ng katig na may habang 10 piye humigit-kumulang depende sa laki ng bangka.

Sa katig ikinakabit ang mga palutang o floater gaya ng mga kawayan o tubong maaaring gawa sa plastic o yero.

Matatag naman ang ganitong bangka laban sa taob ngunit sa oras na may bitak ang floater o nabali ang mga katid, magdasal ka na sa tiyak na pagtaob ng bangka.

Sa mga nadisgrasyang bangka, kitang-kita, mga Bro, ang pagkawasak ng mga ito bagama't sama-sama pa rin ang mga parte dahil pawang konektado ang mga ito ng lubid.

LIFE VEST O JACKET

Karaniwang may pasenger capacity ang bangkang pampasahero at may alawans din para sa mga dala-dala ng mga ito.

Subalit sa kagustuhan ng mga may bangka at crew na kumita, nagkarga ang mga ito ng sobrasobra sa pasaherong itinakda ng mga awtoridad.

Walang kaibhan ito sa mga bus na siksikan ang nakatayo, mga dyip at traysikel na may mga nakasabit at iba pa ang mga nasa bubong.

Kaya naman, ang life vest o jacket ay kulang na kulang.

Problema pa kung hindi sinasanay ng mga mayari at crew ang mga pasahero kung paano magsuot at gumamit ng life vest.

Sa mga eroplano, pagsara ng pinto, meron agad instruksyon kung saan matatagpuan at kung paano isulot ang life vest.

Pero sa mga barko sa Pinas at mga bangkang pampasahero, anak ng tokwa, walang ganito.

Hindi mo nga mahanap ang kinalalagyan ng mga life vest sa mga barko at marami ring mga bangka

ang talagang walang life vest.

KORAPSYON

Paulit-ulit ang disgrasya sa ating mga karagatan at masasabing hindi talaga tayo natututo.

May mga nadidisgrasya sa kawalan ng pag-iingat at hindi pagdinig sa mga babala o patakaran ng mga awtoridad at "bahala na ang Diyos" ang ikinakatwiran.

Pero paano ang katoohanang may malalang korapsyon sa mga biyaheng dagat?

Karaniwang kinokotongan ng mga awtoridad ang mga may bangka at barko para sa kanilang birthday, Pasko, gastos ng mga anak, bisyo, piyesta, sariling bulsa at marami pang iba.

Kaya naman, kung may overloading, kung may mga depekto ang mga bangka at barko at iba pa, anak ng tokwa, pinababayaan lang ang lahat ng ito.

Pagdating ng disgrasya, sa mga imbestigasyon, pinapatay ang usaping korapsyon at tanging ang mga "violator" kuno ang pinarurusahan.

Marami nga ang mga pangyayari na talagang hindi na idinedeclarang pasahero ang mga hindi mahanap ang bangkay at kasabwat ang ilang awtoridad sa pagtatago ng mga tunay na dapat lumabas na impormasyon.

Kaya naman, kung nawawala ang iyong kamag-anak na hindi kasali sa listahan dahil sa overloading, maghanda ka na lang sa kawalan ng anomang danyos.

Karaniwang hindi makita ang mga inuulam ng mga pating at iba pang isda, hipon, alimango at uod sa gitna ng dagat.

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