

DATE : 09 AUG 2019

DAY : Friday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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## DENR hails SC order to fine water firms, but Manila Water says it may file MR

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has hailed the Supreme Court ruling holding the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and its two private-water concessionaires accountable for failing to comply with the provisions of Republic Act 9275 or the Clean Water Act of 2004.

However, one of the two concessionaires, Manila Water Co., insisted it had complied with its commitments to provide sewage facilities besides the clean water supply, and added it will seek a reconsideration from the high court.

In a statement welcoming the decision, DENR Undersecretary for solid waste management Benny Antiporda said Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu believes the favorable ruling will boost government efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

"Secretary Cimatu extends his gratitude to the Supreme Court for this landmark decision that augurs well for the 'Battle for Manila Bay's as well as other environmental rehabilitation programs

of the government," Antiporda said.

"We are looking forward to more people in the justice system extending their support for our fight to preserve and save the environment," says Antiporda.

At the same time, Antiporda expressed hope the high court decision would serve as "a wake-up call to big firms that they should pay serious attention and comply with our environmental laws."

On Thursday, Manila Water said it has not received an official copy of the Supreme Court decision to-date. "We are prepared to exercise all our legal options, including filing for a Motion for Reconsideration, within the prescribed time mandated by the law on receipt of the said order."

As part of its mandate as a concessionaire, Manila Water said in a statement sent to media offices that it had "invested more than P33 billion for the past 21 years and will continue to invest P38.4 billion more until 2022 as part of the government-approved.

SEE "DENR," A12





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# BusinessMirror

Unapologetic and to the point

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## DENR...

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To date, it said, "sewer coverage is more than 15 percent of our water-served population and 22 percent in terms of facility acceptance/capacity, a 700-percent increase from only 3 percent when we took over in 1997. We are accelerating various used water programs to increase coverage to 32 percent by 2022 despite persistent challenges in implementation, which include land acquisition, rights-of-way, permits and relocation of informal settlers. The biggest consideration for the government in approving these projects is the significant cost impact of these facilities on the water bill of every consumer who will eventually have to pay for these services."

### 'Use money to comply'

APPEARING before environmental reporters at a hastily-called press conference Wednesday, Antiporda appealed to the MWSS and its private concessionaires, Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. to comply with the SC order "rather than spending so much money on

the legal actions" as the fine proceeds would anyway go to the Manila Bay rehabilitation, which currently operates on a tight budget.

"What we want is the compliance with the Clean Water Act," said Antiporda, adding that the DENR would want Manila Water and Maynilad to come up with their immediate plans on doubling their actions in compliance with the SC order.

A similar call to the water concessionaires was earlier made by Buhay Party-list Rep. Lito Atienza, who was the DENR secretary when the breaches in the Clean Water Act were discovered, and who ordered the fines imposed. However, instead of complying, the water companies sued the DENR, going all the way to the SC after losing in the Court of Appeals.

Voting 12-0, the SC ordered MWSS and Manila Water to "jointly and severally" pay a fine totaling P921,464,184. It also ordered MWSS and Maynilad to pay the same amount, which covers the period of May 7, 2009, five years after RA 9275 was enacted, to August 5, 2019, or the day the decision was promulgated.

MWSS, Manila Water and Maynilad were ordered to pay within 15 days from receipt of

the ruling. They were also fined P322,102 a day from the time they receive a copy of the decision until they have fully settled the fine.

The SC, in imposing the fines, affirmed a previous CA ruling and denied a petition filed by the MWSS and the water concessionaires.

The court ruled that the MWSS, Manila Water and Maynilad were liable for violation of Section 8 of RA 9275, which requires the connection of existing sewage line in all subdivisions, condominiums, commercial centers and other establishments, including households, to an available sewerage system.

The decision stemmed from a case filed by the DENR, which in 2009, slapped the MWSS and the private concessionaires a fine of P29.4 million for their failure to install and maintain wastewater treatment facilities within five years after RA 9275 was enacted in 2004.

Under the law, the daily fine increases by 10 percent every two years until full compliance with Section 8.

In 2013, the CA upheld the authority of the DENR to impose fines for violation of such an important provision in the country's clean water law. **Jonathan L. Mayuga**





## SC order a warning to environmental offenders

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the recent Supreme Court (SC) decision imposing massive fines on Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and concessionaires Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. for their alleged non-compliance with the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 should serve as a warning to other environmental offenders.

Benny Antiporda, DENR undersecretary for solid waste management and local government units concerns, said the court order

will boost government efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay and other critical areas.

"We are looking forward to more people in the justice system extending their support to our fight to preserve and save the environment," Antiporda said.

He said the SC decision should also serve as a wakeup call to other companies to take compliance to environmental laws seriously.

Antiporda appealed to the MWSS and the two concessionaires to immediately comply with the SC order "rather than spend so much money on legal actions"

as proceeds of the fine worth over P1.8 billion will fund the Manila Bay rehabilitation which currently operates on a tight budget.

The decision penned by associate justice Ramon Paul Hernando enjoined the MWSS and west zone concessionaire Maynilad to pay P921,464,184 as fine for violating the law by failing to put up sewage lines and sewage treatment facilities.

A similar amount of P921,464,184 was also charged on MWSS and east zone concessionaire Manila Water for the similar charge.





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**DIRECT HIT**



**By ITCHIE CABAYAN**

**CONGRATULATIONS** are in order for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for having scored a victory in its legal battle with the Maynilad Water Services Inc., Manila Water Co. Inc. and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

The DENR's position was sustained when the Supreme Court unanimously issued a decision upholding a 2009 order penalizing said water companies with a hefty fine for violation of Sec 8 of the Philippine Clean Water Act.

In its 14-0 decision, the SC said 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; Manila Water Co. Inc shall be jointly and severally liable with MWSS for the same amount and period and shall pay the fine within 15 days from receipt of the decision. 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 per day subject to further 10 percent in-

## Usec Benny wants compliance, Atienza wants refunds

crease every two years as provided under Sec. 28 of the Philippine Clean Water Act, until full compliance with Sec 8 of the same law. There is also a legal interest of six percent per annum until fully satisfied.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda says he and those from the DENR are thankful for the unanimous decision in their favor but they are not happy or satisfied since what they want from the water companies is compliance and not for them to simply shell out fines or penalties.

Indeed, the SC decision is very timely, as the Duterte government is hell-bent on cleaning up Manila Bay.

Antiporda said what they actually want is nothing but strict and full compliance with the Clean Water Act, citing the need to save the planet and the environment for us and the next generation to enjoy.

Too, Antiporda laments that based on news reports, the said water companies are bent on still fighting out the issue in court.

If there is anyone who is truly happy with the SC decision, it is Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza, who hailed the punishment as the 'best deterrent to violators of environmental protection laws.'

As DENR secretary in 2009, Atienza says he was the first to have issued the order fining MWSS and the two private water concessionaires.

'We first cited the three entities in April 2009 for violating Section 8 of the Clean Water Act which re-

quires them to provide wastewater treatment facilities and to connect sewerage lines in all establishments, including households, to an available sewerage system,' he said.

The following month, he said an initial fine of P29.4 million was imposed on the said water companies. This has now already ballooned to almost P2 billion and the Supreme Court now says it should be paid inside 15 days without prejudice to further daily fines until the violators meet the terms of the law.

Atienza pointed out that instead of fulfilling their contractual obligation of putting up wastewater treatment facilities, the MWSS and the water concessionaires went to the Court of Appeals, where they lost.

They went to the Supreme Court, and now they've also lost. It is the end of the road for them. They now have to quickly put up sufficient wastewater treatment facilities, as we've been repeatedly pointing out in Congress, and connect all households and establishments in their concession areas to an available sewerage system. Until they do, they will have to continue paying the P322,102 daily fine, which escalates by 10 percent in two years,' Atienza says.

The Clean Water Act, he said, gave these companies five years to comply - between April 2004 to April 2009 - but still they did not.

'Up to now, they have not complied. They really deserve to be dealt with severely', Atienza added,

as he also bared having asked lawyers Romulo Macalintal and Melchor Monsod to look into possible ways of refunding consumers for the 20 percent sewage fee that they have been paying since 1997 for a service that has not been rendered by the water concessionaires.

According to him, the water consumers, have been paying a so-called sewage fee amounting to 20 percent of their monthly water bills over the years, for a service that has never been rendered.

**Beauty tip**— Massage the scalp for 10 to 15 minutes after bathing with water. This stimulates the blood circulation and strengthens the hair follicles in the scalp. (Source: Dr Rosary May Canay-Diaz of Californian Bloom Aesthetic Institute and Medical Spa /4108424/4669596/09178038240/025053987 )

**Jokjok (from Ricardo Molino of Pangasinan)**— WIFE: Hoy, bakit ginabi ka na naman? /HUSBAND: Pasensiya na, nagkayayaan lang mga officemates ko konting inuman lang. /WIFE: Lasing ka no? /HUSBAND: Hinde! 'Yan ang hirap sa 'yo bintangera ka! /WIFE: Anong hinde? Wala ka namang trabaho paano ka nagkaroon ng officemates? Tadu!

*Direct Hit entertains comments, suggestions or complaints. Please have them emailed to itchiecabayan@yahoo.com or text 0927-7169778.*





## Multa sa MWSS, Maynilad, Manila Water ok sa DENR

**WELCOME** sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang desiyon ng Korte Suprema na nagpapataw ng multa sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System at sa private concessionaires nito na Manila Water Company at Maynilad Water Services Inc. dahil sa non-compliance sa Republic Act 9275 o ang Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.

Si Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu at ang buong DENR community ay malugod na tinatanggap ang ruling ng Korte Suprema at inaasahan na ito na ang magpapalakas sa pagnanais ng pamahalaan para muling ma-rehabilitate ang napaka-polluted na Manila Bay, ayon kay Usec. for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny Antiporda.

"Secretary Cimatu extends his gratitude to the Sup-

reme Court for this landmark decision that augurs well for the 'Battle for Manila Bay' as well as other environmental rehabilitation programs of the government," ani Antiporda.

"We are looking forward to more people in the justice system extending their support for our fight to preserve and save the environment" dagdag pa ni Antiporda.

Kaugnay nito nagpahayag si Antiporda ng pag-asa na ang high court decision ay mag-sisilbing "wake up call" sa malalaking firm na kinakailangang sumunod at mag-comply sa environmental laws.

Umapela rin ito sa MWSS at sa private concessionaires nito na agad sundin ang kautusan ng SC kaysa gumastos sa mga ligal na aksyon at ang kanilang multa ay gagamitin para sa Manila Bay rehabilitation na isinasagawa ng ahen-sya.

Ildinagdag pa ni Antiporda

na nais ng DENR na ang Manila Water at Maynilad ay agad na magbibigay ng kanilang agarang plano para sa kanilang aksyon bilang pagtugon sa kautusan ng SC.

Sa botong 12-0, inutusan ng Korte Suprema ang MWSS at Manila Water na magbayad ng kabuuang multa na nagkakahalaga ng P921,464,184.

Kabilang sa naturang halaga ang multa mula Mayo 7, 2009 o limang taon matapos maisabatas ang RA 9275 hanggang August 5, 2019 o sa araw ng paglalabas ng promulgasyon.

Ang MWSS, Manila Water at Maynilad ay inutusan na magbayad sa loob ng 15-araw matapos matanggap ang ruling Korte Suprema.

Pinagmumulta rin sila ng halagang P322,102 isang araw matapos matanggap ang kopya ng desisyon hanggang sa mabayaran nila ito nang buo.

**SANTI CELARIO**





Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXHIBIT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
 THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## Manila Water investing ₱38.4 B more until 2022 to improve sewerage, sanitation services

Manila Water on Thursday said it has invested more than ₱33 billion for the past 21 years and will continue to invest ₱38.4 billion more until 2022 as part of the government-approved business plan to further improve sewerage and

sanitation services in the East Zone.

The water concessionaire issued the statement after reading reports that the Supreme Court ordered Manila Water, Maynilad, and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Sys- ▶9

## Manila Water investing... ◀1

tem (MWSS) to pay a fine of more than ₱1.84 billion for violation of the Philippine Clean Water Act since 2009.

But Manila Water stressed that it has not received an official copy of the SC decision to-date.

"We are prepared to exercise all our legal options, including filing for a motion for reconsideration, within the prescribed time mandated by the law on receipt of the said order," it said in a statement.

Manila Water said that to date, sewer coverage is more than 15 percent of our water-served population and 22 percent in terms of facility acceptance/capacity, a 700 percent increase from only 3 percent when we took over in 1997.

"We are accelerating various used water programs to increase coverage to 32 percent by 2022 despite persistent challenges in implementation, which include land acquisition, rights-of-way,

permits and relocation of informal settlers. The biggest consideration for the government in approving these projects is the significant cost impact of these facilities on the water bill of every consumer who will eventually have to pay for these services," it said.

"Building adequate sewerage and sanitation services while ensuring protection of our waterways and the environment in the course of our operations are of great importance. This calls for a joint and deliberate action from both the government and the concessionaires," Manila Water added.



# Moderate your greed

**“ Both firms together provide sewerage needs of less than half of their customer base after over 20 years of operation.**

The decision of the Supreme Court (SC) to impose an estimated P2 billion in fines on concessionaires Maynilad Water Service Inc., Manila Water Co. Inc. and regulator Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for violating the Clean Water Act requirement on water treatment facilities was long overdue.

The decision redounds to consumers who have been taken for a ride by the water distributors for so long as they religiously pay sewerage fees in their monthly bills without the provision of the service promised.

The SC en banc voted in a unanimous 12-0 to direct Maynilad and MWSS to pay P900 million each and Manila Water and MWSS another P900 million each for violation of the law.

The two firms and MWSS were also fined an additional P322,000 for each day that they fail to comply with the order.

The decision should settle a long pending dispute on the culpability of the three firms in the neglect of the bodies of water in and around the capital city.

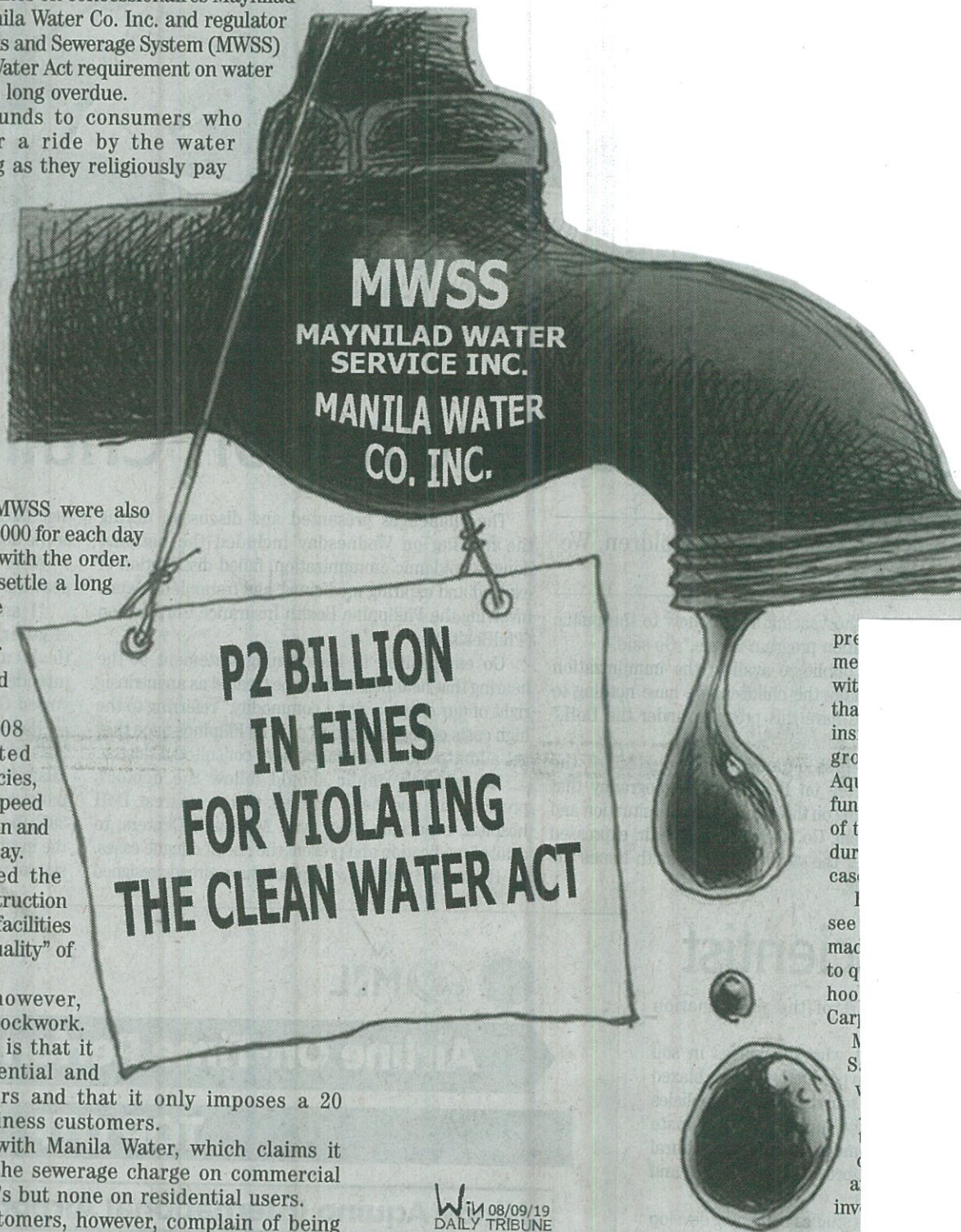
In a December 2008 ruling, the SC directed eight government agencies, including the MWSS, to speed up the cleanup, restoration and preservation of Manila Bay.

The ruling compelled the stepping up of the construction of wastewater treatment facilities to restore “the pristine quality” of polluted water systems.

In monthly bills, however, fees are collected like clockwork. The claim of Maynilad is that it does not charge residential and semi-business customers and that it only imposes a 20 percent charge on business customers.

It is the same way with Manila Water, which claims it imposes 30 percent of the sewerage charge on commercial and industrial customer’s but none on residential users.

Some residential customers, however, complain of being collected 20 percent of their basic charge in what appears to be sewerage fees.



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MWSS had the original responsibility to construct, maintain and operate sewerage networks as mandated by Republic Act 6234.

When the MWSS was privatized in 1997, the operations, maintenance and investments for water, sewerage and sanitation services became the responsibility of the two private concessionaires.

Maynilad was assigned the West Zone of Metro Manila and Manila Water, the East Zone, under the separate 25-year concession agreements of each firm.

Both firms then reasoned that their monthly charges on the invisible service was lower compared to the 50 percent of the basic rate that MWSS imposed. In a way, the two concessionaires were saying that their customers should bear with the broken promises since they charge less.

**“  
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The lack of a proper wastewater treatment and sewerage system in Metro Manila was identified as the main cause of the continued deterioration of the quality of water in Manila Bay, which is expected to get a huge boost once the P2 billion penalties are complied with.

Both firms have trumpeted P67 billion in total capital expenditure program over five years to build sewerage systems across the metropolitan area in which Maynilad plans to spend P30.19 billion while Manila Water is looking at plunking in P37.44 billion.

Maynilad claimed that it has 30 existing sewerage facilities which can process a total of 541 million of liters per day (MLD) of wastewater. Manila Water's facilities have an aggregate capacity of 312 MLD of water treatment accordingly.

Even with their own claims made before a congressional hearing, both firms together provide sewerage needs of less than half of their customer base after over 20 years of operation.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the P2 billion in fines that the government will collect as a result of the ruling will all go to the rehabilitation of Manila Bay and other bodies of water in the metropolis.

Still, the crying need for the treatment of wastewater should be addressed and it would still be the two concessionaires under their contracts who have the responsibility of doing it.

Hopefully, the utility firms will start doing their job without again going through a costly and long-drawn litigation just so consumers get what they have been promised.



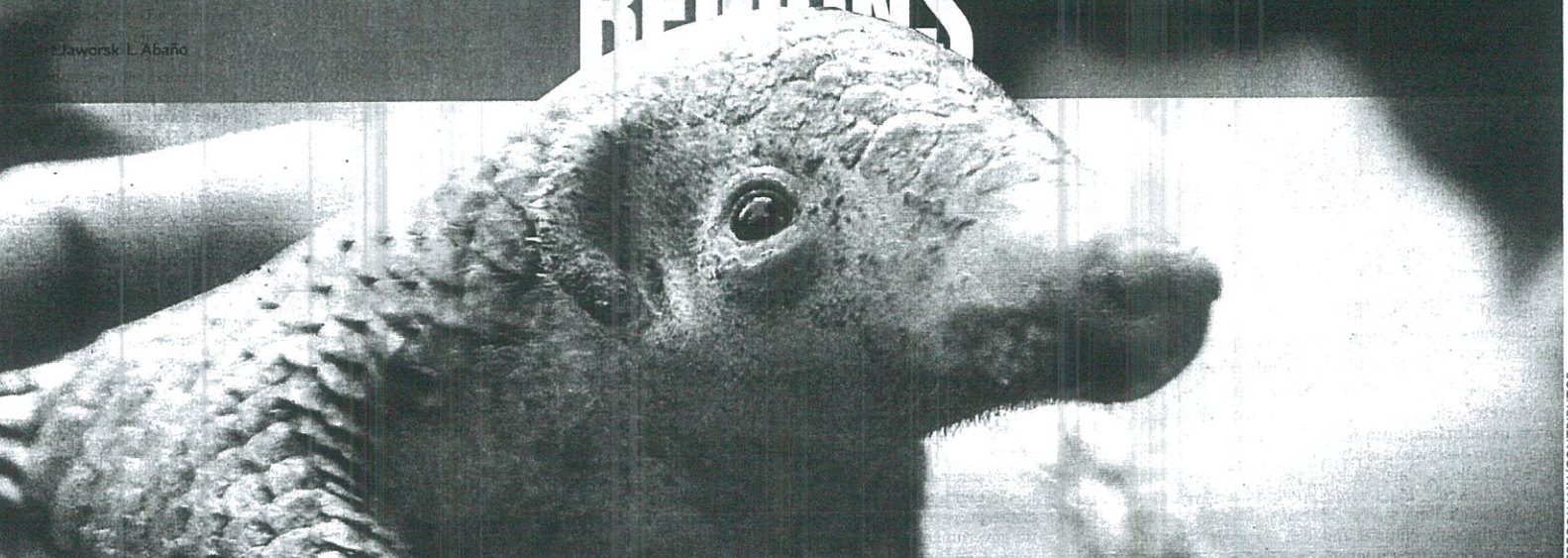


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PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**REGIONS**

Jaworski L. Abano

GREGG YANN/CONTRIBUTOR



RAGILE The Philippine pangolin, which is endemic to Palawan province, is among the most trafficked animals in the country, with its scales and meat fetching thousands of pesos in the underground market.

# Pangolin poachers skip jail

## Three traders convicted by Tagaytay court free, seeking probation

**By Maricar Cinco**  
[@maricarcinco](#)

SAN PEDRO CITY—The three men recently convicted by a Tagaytay City court of violating the wildlife protection law for smuggling 10 Philippine pangolins out of Palawan province have filed a petition for proba-

tion to avoid imprisonment.

The Parole and Probation Office, under the Department of Justice, in Tagaytay City has yet to grant the petition for probation but Jorlan Torrequinada, Victor Equiza and Simfros Salazar had already been released from detention after posting a P20,000 bail each in July.

On July 18, the defense's counsel filed the petition for probation in Tagaytay's Parole and Probation Office, the same day Judge Liezl Rosario Mendoza of the Tagaytay Municipal Trial Court in Cities Branch 1 convicted the three men for violating the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

They were sentenced to three months of imprisonment and asked to pay a P20,000 fine each.

### Temporary liberty

"They could use that [bail] for their temporary liberty, pending the approval of their petition for probation," Eduardo Lamorena Jr., Tagaytay parole and proba-

tion chief, said in a telephone interview on Thursday.

A person under probation must report once a month to his assigned probation officer, must not commit any other offense and must not transfer residence. The probation officer may also ask them to undergo a "rehabilitation module"

during the period, by reporting as often as once a month or twice a month, depending on the compliance and performance of the probationer.

According to Lamorena, the minimum probation period is six months to a year but not more than six years.





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He said the three needed not to be in detention "but should they escape then they would be outlawed [or] considered 'wanted' [by authorities]."

Court records showed that Salazar, a driver from Calatagan, Batangas, posted bail on July 1, while Torrequinada on July 15 and Equiza on July 18.

The case, being the first successful conviction of wildlife traffickers from Palawan, was a win for the environment, but this also renewed calls to impose stiffer penalties on offenders.

### 'Slap on wrist'

To conservationist Emerson Sy, president of the Philippine Center for Terrestrial and Aquatic Research (PCTAR), it was no more than a "slap on the wrist."

The three men were arrested when their van was flagged at a road checkpoint on June 28. They were transporting 10 pangolins (*Manis culionensis*) smuggled out of Palawan for illegal trade in Metro Manila.

The pangolins, a rare and gentle mammal, fetched steep prices for its scales and meat used for traditional medicine or exotic dishes.

The Department of Environ-



ment and Natural Resources rescue center eventually released the three surviving pangolins, considered as "vulnerable" species, to their natural habitat.

Lamorena said Salazar had already reported to their office last week, but they were having problems with Torrequinada and Equiza.

"One of them is from Palawan, the other from Bicol—I'm just not sure which is

which. But both live far from here and it will be quite expensive for them to travel back [to Cavite]," he said.

Lamorena said his office would coordinate the case with probation officers in the provinces to evaluate and later on handle the case.

"This is a special law, and normally penalties less than six years of imprisonment are probationable," Lamorena said.

Under Republic Act No. 9147, illegal wildlife "collection, hunting and possession" has a penalty of two to four years imprisonment and a fine of P30,000 to P300,000 but the court gave weight to the respondents' admission to the crime.

Should they comply with the probation requirements, Lamorena said the probation officer would immediately clear them of any criminal record. INQ





## GIANT HITO NABINGWIT SA ILOG PASIG

**ISANG** higanteng hito ang nabingwit sa Ilog Pasig ng mga residente sa bahagi ng Guadalupe sa Makati City.

Ayon kay Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission Executive Director

Jose Antonio "Ka Pepeton" E. Goitia, Huwebes ng umaga nang mabingwit ang dambuhalang hito na tinatayang nasa sampung kilo ang bigat.

Magandang senyales ang pagkakahuli

ng malalaking isda sa Ilog Pasig, ngunit pinaalalahanan ni Goitia ang publiko na patuloy ang pag-aaral kung ligtas bang kainin ang mga nahuhuling isda mula sa nasabing ilog.

Sa pahayag ni Goitia na ang pagkakahuli sa malalaking isda sa Ilog Pasig ay magsisilbing inspirasyon para sa mas aktibo pang paglilinis at pangangalaga sa ilog.





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**METRO**

## Cutting of 50 trees upsets QC folk

Some Quezon City residents have expressed alarm over the recent cutting and pruning of 50 trees at a public park in Barangay Philam. The park has around 800 trees planted by homeowners and community volunteers since 1955. Barangay Chair Simplicio Hermogenes, however, says the tree cutting and trimming were done with the permission of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. —STORY BY MARIEJO S. RAMOS

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**'PRECAUTION AGAINST POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY'**

# QC RESIDENTS DISMAYED OVER CUTTING, PRUNING OF 50 TREES IN PUBLIC PARK

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**By Mariejo S. Ramos**  
@MariejoRamosINQ

Sitting in the middle of towering structures and busy roads in northeastern Metro Manila is a 3-hectare public park on Baguio Road in Barangay Philam, Quezon City.

It is home to around 800 species of trees, like acacia, narra and gmelina, that have been planted by homeowners and community volunteers since 1955.

But some residents have expressed alarm over the recent cutting and pruning of 50 evergreen and hardwood trees around a covered court in the park.

### Barangay chair airs side

Barangay Philam chair Simplicio Hermogenes said he gave the order as a "precaution [against] potential damage to [property]" in the area.

"We were also [directed] by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council to identify our evacuation centers for the 'Big One'

[earthquake] and it is the 5,000-square-meter football/basketball field," he said.

"Our problem was that the trees had grown so much and we had to cut them because they [posed a risk]. We'll keep on trimming tall trees because trees that are uniform in height look pleasant, too," Hermogenes told the Inquirer.

### Chair's tally

By his own count, three acacia, two narra and three gmelina trees were cut. The rest were pruned or trimmed, their height reduced to 15 to 25 feet from 30 feet.

Dead or overgrown branches were also removed.

According to the National Capital Region (NCR) office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), tree-cutting and pruning activities are allowed only if the petitioner meets specific requirements and after applying for a permit.

On Jan. 8, the DENR-NCR's forest utilization section issued a permit to Barangay





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**TRIMMED?** A tree is shorn of its leaves after a pruning and cutting project is approved by officials in Barangay Philam. —LYN RILLON



Hermogenes said the village hired Jer-val Enterprises from Valenzuela City to do the pruning and cutting for P160,000.

Hermogenes also told the Inquirer that as required by law, a DENR field officer supervised the activity.

**Woodpiles at the park**

When contacted by the Inquirer, a DENR-NCR forestry officer said he would have to verify whether a field officer was indeed present during the trimming and cutting.

The DENR would also inspect the area to determine if no regulations were violated.

In the meantime, what will happen to the wood from the cut or pruned trees? As of last week, woodpiles were still stocked in the park.

Hermogenes said the shavings would go to a composite facility while anyone could ask for the hardwood.

“Some accuse me of selling the timber in Bulacan province, but I only give them out for free,” he stressed. INQ

Philam for the cutting and pruning of acacia, banaba, camachile, eucalyptus, fire tree, gmelina, mahogany, molave, narra and rain trees in the park.

But the permit's effectivity lapsed after the village failed to hire a DENR-affiliated contractor to do the work, said

Hermogenes.

The DENR, however, granted his request to extend the permit's validity for another 30 days on July 10. This time,





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# Prove reclamation's worth

*I am not closing my door – Isko*



**No trade off** It is up to developers to prove the value of several projects to reclaim Manila Bay, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno said, adding that progress should not be in exchange for the safety of the people and protection of the environment. **BOB DUNGO JR.**

My word is that it is not my priority... it is up to them to prove their worth

**By Elmer N. Manuel**

For Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso, it would be inland development rather than the controversial

Manila Bay reclamation as focus of his administration's projects for the city.

In the regular online forum "Straight Talk with *Daily Tribune*," Domagoso revealed

four to five reclamation proposals have been signed by his predecessor, former Mayor Joseph Estrada, and the conflicting plans were muddling the development projects in the city.

However, the neophyte Manila mayor said any of the plans

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# Prove reclamation's worth

There were four to five reclamation projects already signed by Erap

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presented is not his priority as of the moment.

"My word is that it is not my priority. It is up to them to prove their worth," he said. "I'm not closing my door because from the beginning, I'm up for development, but I will not gamble the effects of this with regards to the safety of the people and the environment in exchange for economic growth."

Asked about the various infrastructure projects lined up after the reclamation that aims to establish gambling cities, Domagoso said that he's not keen on it since there are already a lot of gambling establishments in the metropolis.

"We have enough already there," he said, referring to entertainment and gambling establishments at the Entertainment City in Pasay and Paranaque. "But we'll see... I'll cross the bridge when I get there."

"There were four to five

reclamation projects already signed by Erap," the mayor said. "But that's water under the bridge. I will focus on my campaign promise and it's the same position that I have."

**We'll see, I'll cross the bridge when I get there.**

"I would rather focus on inland development and use all the energy and effort and resources of the city government to develop what is there already in the city," he stressed.

The incumbent Manila mayor also stressed that he will leave it first to the city council to inquire about the said projects and he will attend to them as soon as they come to his office.

#### Council's call

"For the meantime, the council – under the oversight committee – had conducted an inquiry and as I said, it's the city councilors' job," Domagoso said. "We will check on it once it goes

to my office," he added.

Asked on his plans regarding the reclamation, the mayor said that he will not do anything as of the moment and he will focus all his energy to find ways to benefit the people of Manila and the environment as well.

"I don't have to do anything, that's their problem," he said. "In the first place, why would they claim before the city and engage the city wherein they did not follow due diligence?"

"That's their business, it's not mine. What I'm after is, is this safe for the city? Is this good for the city? Or is it good only for the businessmen and not the city and the people of Manila? That is something I have to check later on," he indicated.

#### Safety first

The Manila mayor added that first and foremost, the safety of the people of Manila is his priority.

"You can always claim, but you cannot reclaim immediately, because what I'm after for is how safe is it to the people of Manila and the environment... This must be addressed by this concessionaire or proponent

or whatever term they call it," said Moreno, adding that he will not waste time by waiting and arranging things for the reclamation issue.

He also noted that while focusing on inland development, he will also look after the welfare of the people and stressed that the city government's business is "people helping people."

**I would rather focus on inland development and use all the energy and effort and resources of the city government to develop what is there already in the city.**

"The business of the city government is people helping people," Domagoso said. "So that's where I will focus on."

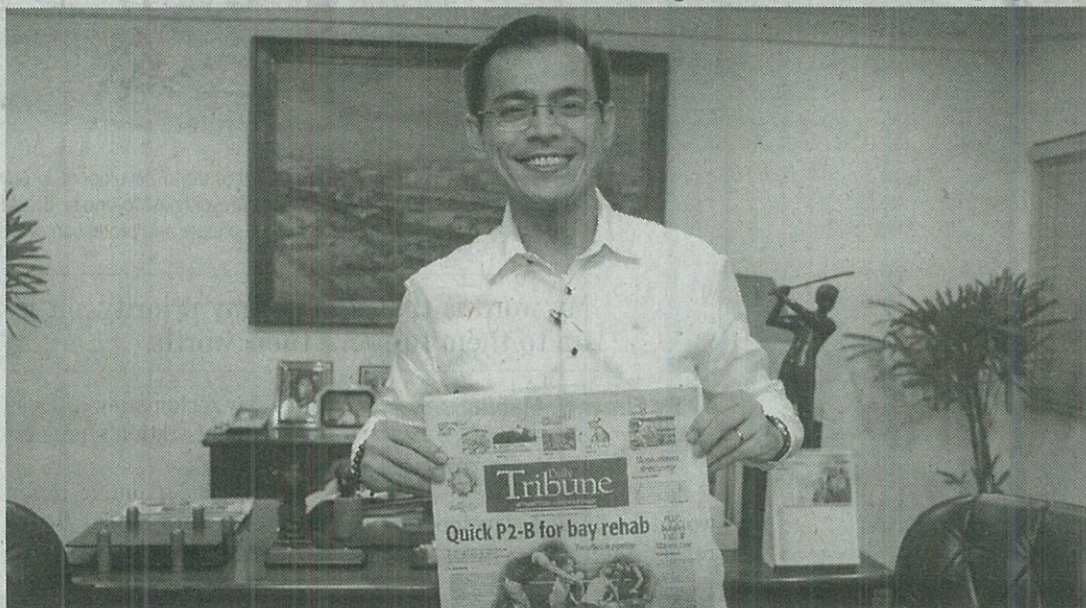
On the notion that the reclamation may push through after his three-year term, he stressed that these projects have to follow the rules of various government agencies to ensure that it will not cause long-term problems for the City of Manila.

#### Follow rules

"They can wait for 10 years, maybe six months or two months, maybe one year, but it's not for me to say that it's already okay," he said. "They have to follow the rules of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. They have to follow rules from the Public Estate Authority."

"If this indeed goes back to us, then we'll check if these things will benefit the city government with regard to economic growth and the people of Manila for job opportunities and all other things. They still have a long way to go," he added.

Although he's not really against the reclamation projects for Manila Bay, Domagoso reiterated that it is not the priority and noted that they will review the reclamation contracts with an open mind.



**Explosive match** Political sensation Manila Mayor Isko Moreno shows off media phenomenon *Daily Tribune*.

DAVID JOHN CUBANGBANG





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## BOC creates unit to handle entry of hazardous wastes

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has established a permanent and specialized division which is tasked to monitor and control the entry of hazardous substances and other wastes into the country.

Customs Commissioner Rey Leornado Guerrero has issued Customs Memorandum Order 38-2019, which institutionalizes the Environmental Protection and Compliance Division (EPCD) to address the unlawful entry of wastes from other countries.

This came after Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez ordered the BOC to establish a strike team, which will guard the country against the entry of waste materials.

"There shall be created a permanent Environmental Protection and Compliance Division under the Enforcement and Security Service (ESS), Enforcement Group (EG). The EPCD shall be headed by a senior officer from the ESS and composed of other ESS personnel who will be selected by the ESS director, subject to the approval of the deputy commissioner of EG," the memorandum read.

According to the BOC, the order institutionalizes the Environmental Protection Unit of the bureau, which was established in 1996 with limited duties and functions.

Under the CMO, the EPCD shall monitor the processing of shipments of hazardous substances, waste products, nuclear wastes, recyclable products, and all other chemicals, products or substances under the regulatory control of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

It shall recommend the issuance of alert orders and pre-lodgment control orders against shipments suspected of containing goods in violation of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act and environmental laws.

The division is also directed to investigate cases and to make recommendation for prosecution of violations of the CMTA, in relation to environmental and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Regulatory agencies, including the BOC, are mandated to assist the DENR in monitoring and preventing the entry of hazardous and nuclear wastes into the country, in compliance with Republic Act 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1999.

Last May 31, Canada re-exported 69 containers of trash which were dumped in the Philippines six years ago.

- Mary Grace Padin





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## TREASURE HUNT

A man braves big waves and pelting rain to look for materials that can be recycled in Manila Bay. PHOTO BY DJ DIOSINA





## JOY SCHOOLS PLAY AREAS:

# From plastic waste to delightful ecobricks slide

By LEONY R. GARCIA

**P**LASTIC used to be regarded as a world miracle. After all, it was really created to help mankind to eliminate the need to ransack the Earth in pursuit of substances which are constantly growing scarcer as well as saving plants and animals. Indeed, plastics have transformed many lives for the better. They've eased travel into space and revolutionized medicine. They lighten every car and jumbo jet today. In the form of clingy, light-as-air wraps, they extend the life of fresh food. In airbags, incubators, helmets, or simply by delivering clean drinking water to poor people in disposable bottles, plastics save lives daily.

With improper disposal over the years, plastics have encountered a problem—tons of improperly discarded plastic waste in varying sizes from large containers, fishing nets, to microscopic plastic pellets or even particles—discarded improperly every year, everywhere, polluting lands and bodies of water.

Global company Mondelez Philippines sees it is time to create alternative uses for plastic waste. Heeding the call to save Mother Earth, Mondelez Philippines with partner First Balfour, decided to make use of plastic waste by constructing play areas made of ecobricks—or plastic 1.5 or 1.75-liter bottles which are stuffed with plastic packaging waste.

The play areas will be installed in the adopted Joy Schools of Mondelez Philippines in support of the company's global 2025 commitment to make all packaging recyclable, provide recycling information and support public-private partnerships to help reduce waste and improve recycling.

### Recycled Plastic Play Areas

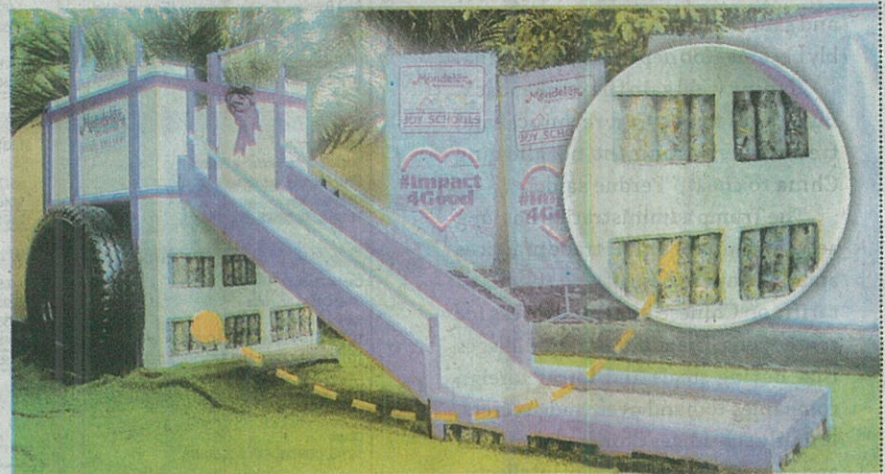
THE First Balfour-designed ecobricks slide was unveiled at Camp Claudio Elementary School in Paranaque City on August 2 in the presence of school officials, the Paranaque City office and partner the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP). The ecobricks have been collected by the school community itself and Mondelez Philippines employees. In fact, some of the plastic bottles bear the names of the students or the sections of the students who filled them.

According to Mondelez Philippines Country Director Ashish Pisharodi, a total of 990 kilos of ecobricks have been collected from January to March 2019, and transformed into the three play areas.

He said two more play areas shall be unveiled within the month of August, at the Rogelio Gatchalian Elementary School in Paranaque City



MONDELEZ-Camp Claudio Elementary School Unveiling of First Play Area ROY DOMINGO



and Holy Spirit Elementary School in Quezon City.

"Through the ecobricks project, the students of the Joy Schools can learn about the importance of environmental protection, recycling and have more opportunities to be active while enjoying their new play areas," Pisharodi said during the interview after the launch.

### Snacking Made Right

MONDELEZ Philippines aims to empower people to snack right as well as help minimize plastic waste. It believes that one of the approaches to help address the issue of plastic waste is to make it easier for consumers to recycle packaging and support industry coalitions to improve recycling rates.

The Joy Schools, Mondelez Philippines's signature community program across Southeast Asia, has included recycling to help empower students to care for the planet's well-being.

The Joy Schools currently provides a daily nine-month feeding for 300 undernourished students in the country to help improve their nutrition and increase energy for school.

"We are excited about the launch of the Joy Schools Plastic Play Areas project. Over the past years we have done similar projects to help promote the importance of recycling, including sharing of recycled plastic chairs with schools through our brand, Tang," Pisharodi shared.

"In our manufacturing plant in Paranaque, we also have several initiatives in place to ensure we reduce our waste and carbon emissions, and our use of energy and water. As of 2019, 98% of the total waste from our operations are either recycled or recyclable."

"This is only the start for us as we move towards our global goal of 100% recyclable packaging by 2025," he concluded.





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## World Vision, P&G, DepEd Malabon launch 'Pag-asa sa Basura' campaign

World Vision and Procter & Gamble (P&G) Philippines together with Department of Education Malabon division office launched the "Pag-asa sa Basura" campaign, a sustainable waste collection and recycling system targeting several schools in Metro Manila. The project will be done in 25 chosen schools in Malabon and Quezon City.

The participating schools will be outfitted with school-based materials recovery facilities (MRF) for various solid waste materials including sachet packaging.

The students who will be participating in the campaign are encouraged to

bring sachets to receive incentives such as school supplies.

Furthermore, the profits that will be collected from the MRF will be used for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) programs like improvements in their handwashing facilities and WaSH education.

In photo are the representatives from the Mayor's Office of Malabon City, Department of Education Malabon Division, World Vision Development Foundation Inc., and Procter & Gamble Philippines together with the school principals from the participating schools in



Malabon.

To know more and support World Vision Philippines activities, visit [www.worldvision.org.ph](http://www.worldvision.org.ph).

You may also follow /[worldvisionph](https://www.facebook.com/worldvisionph) on Facebook and @[worldvisionphl](https://www.instagram.com/worldvisionphl) on Instagram for updates.





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**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH BYOB:** Social media influencers and vloggers Weizel Gulfan and Angel Jones joined the recent kick-off event of NutriAsia's Bring Your Own Bottle initiative, affirming their support for the company's vision of a more environmentally sustainable world. BYOB encourages consumers to bring clean, reusable plastic bottles and have these refilled with their favorite NutriAsia food condiments and products like Datu Puti vinegar and soy sauce, UFC Banana Catsup, and Golden Fiesta Cooking Oil. Through BYOB, NutriAsia also aims to raise awareness on responsible plastic use and help build zero-waste communities as a vital step toward sustainability. BYOB was launched last July 30 and runs until Sept. 12, from 12-noon to 8 p.m., Mondays through Sundays at The Mind Museum in BGC.





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## For every problem, a department!

That's the problem with professional government officials who have never spent a day really working for a living in the private sector. Their solution to every public concern is to expand the bureaucracy.

They have just created a Department of Housing, but tarried in getting it going due to budget problems. Putting all housing related agencies under one roof may work. But lack of good ideas, as well as the prevalence of corruption among current housing officials, are the real problems.

### DEMAND AND SUPPLY



**BOO CHANCO**

✓ They are now talking of creating a Department of Water to respond to a looming water crisis. We have a National Water Resources Board, but I guess they think a Cabinet level department gives water concerns more oomph.

A Department for OFWs is also now on the table. Its functions will most likely overlap with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Department of Labor. But creating a Cabinet level department makes it look as if our officials are concerned about the welfare of our workers.

Then there is this proposed Department for Disaster Management. It is supposed to prepare the country for adverse effects of typhoons, earthquakes and tsunamis. The bigger disasters begging for management are manmade... in Congress.

I am not sure a Cabinet level department is necessary. Joey Salceda, when he was governor of Albay, did everything to disaster-proof his province and got international recognition. A disaster agency on the national level will prove useless unless LGU officials are as good as Joey had been.

Other suggestions I have heard for Cabinet level departments include a Department of Culture and History and a Department for Sports Development. I heard there is a proposal for a Department of Fisheries, as if that will make a difference in our fish production.

I will not be surprised if someone proposes a Department for Gender Equality... or a Department for Extraterrestrial Beings.

Before Congress creates another department, PIDS, the government think tank should study the absolute necessity of creating it. The optics of a new department may be attractive at the start, but lack of performance quickly renders it useless.

We should be shrinking the bureaucracy. If we really need a new department to handle water, maybe we should abolish an existing department that has outlived its usefulness. The Department of Energy and its agencies like the PNOC comes to mind. Free market, Epira, and ERC have made the energy bureaucracy redundant.

Or maybe there should be a moratorium on hiring of new government personnel other than teachers and countryside doctors and nurses. New departments should get their personnel from overstuffed agencies and from those that should be dismantled.

Things could get worse if the politicians ram through federalism. That means there will be another layer of bureaucrats that mirrors the national bureaucracy. More mouths to feed from our taxes.

According to NEDA the additional cost for this new layer of bureaucracy is upwards of P200 billion a year. They are probably underestimating it.

The ARMM used to have its own secretary of education, for instance, among others. I guess the new Bangsamoro set-up is the same thing. Too many bureaucrats give rise to red tape as they all want to make their presence felt, and their existence justified.

Rather than expand the number of people in government, we will be better off if we slimmed it down. It is not only Dick Gordon who needs to lose weight, the bloated Philippine bureaucracy's need is even more urgent.

Alex Magno, my colleague in the op/ed section, made a good suggestion last week. "If we close down Congress tomorrow and redeploy the budget it allocated for itself, we will have more than enough money to fund Universal Healthcare. This institution is literally unhealthy for our people."

Before I hear cries that such a move would deprive our people a voice in government, our rubber stamp Congress isn't giving democracy any favors. Congress, notably the House is bunch of choir boys and girls singing hallelujah to the great leader.

In reality, we are a virtual one-man rule pretending to still be democratic. Malacañang controls all branches of government now, a situation so similar to the Marcos martial law days.

So, why not save a great deal of money and abolish Congress? Let us deprive the executive branch of the excuse that Congress is not acting fast enough on programs to explain why key projects are not moving.

We need more creative solutions to address festering issues. Expanding the bureaucracy and increasing the cost of government cannot be the useful response.

Of course, the government is the employer of choice for many. A lot of people depend on a government job because otherwise, they have to really work and produce results in private sector jobs. Creating government jobs is how presidents fix the unemployment problem.

A better way is to have good policies that will entice the private sector to create jobs that create goods and services that people actually need and will pay for. That's too difficult to do, it seems.

On the contrary, it should be easy for our officials to stop passing new laws that make it more difficult to do business in this country. Even barangay officials demand their pound of flesh before an entrepreneur can get going.

If the President really wants to break away from the horrible past, he needs to deliver the message that government must be effective, and for that to happen it must shrink.

His span of control, any manager's span of control, is limited. The number of people he must deal with at Cabinet meetings must decrease, not increase.

No more new departments. Let the Cabinet clusters do all the necessary coordination. Only a lean and mean bureaucracy can deliver the public service we need and deserve. I am sure the President knows that only too well.

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## GOTCHA

JARIUS BONDOC



# Water to cause future wars, as in the past

**F**uture wars will be fought over water, experts say. Rivers and lakes will dry up from global warming. Seafood stocks will dwindle as ocean temperatures rise. Nations and tribes will battle over remaining freshwater sources and sea features. Hundreds of millions of people will perish.

The alarm for water sustainability was first raised in 1995 by World Bank vice president Ismail Serageldin. While no war has yet erupted strictly over water, the flashpoints are many. Australia has been at odds with neighbor-states over the seas between them. Against international law, China has been trespassing the exclusive economic zones of the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Taiwan, and Japan.

The UNESCO traces Middle East conflicts to the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers in Syria, Iraq, and Turkey; the Jordan River in Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine; and the Nile River in Egypt and Ethiopia. South American countries through which the Amazon flows are quarreling due to dam construction and pollution.

Down the Mekong River every month Chinese gunboats (again!) cruise through Laos and Myanmar to the border of Thailand. Supposedly it is to maintain order in the illegal drug producing Golden Triangle at the Southeast Asian countries' tri-border. But ASEAN knows it is a raw display of power by China, which is to build on the river a series of hydropower dams. Vietnam loudly has been opposing China's schemes beyond borders. Cambodia and Thailand too have been disputing certain portions of the great Mekong.

Even within countries there's trouble over water. Dispute over equitable sharing of the Kaveri River has been raging since the 1800s between the Indian states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. In America so disunited are the states of California, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona over choked river flows. The Cochabamba Water Wars sparked in Bolivia in 1999-2000 when the government attempted to privatize the main river.

No need to go far. So acute was Mega Manila east zone's water shortage last Mar.-Apr. - two million customers afflicted - that President Rody Duterte personally had to resolve it. In Dagupan citizens blame annual floods first on the adjoining Santa Barbara town's canal diversions then on their own ex-mayor's river reclamations. In Bulacan residents complain of a political clan's clogging

of waterways with illegal fish pens. In rice producing provinces violence often sparks over control of the barrio "prensa" or irrigation valves.

Averting water wars so far are international pacts. For how long is unsure. Leaders have agreed on what measures need to be taken to manage the world's water. But virtually no country has done anything, laments environmentalist and author Scott Moore.

Control of waterways was critical in history. In 451-452 AD, Attila the Hun pillaged half the Roman Empire, holding the region from the Danube River to the Baltic Sea, and from the Rhine River to the Caspian Sea. In medieval Europe, barons exacted toll from trader caravans that traversed rivers in their realms. For six years, 1267-1273, the Song Dynasty twin cities of Xiangyang and Fancheng along the Yangtze River withstood siege by Mongol hordes. Then Kublai Khan's newborn Mongol navy devised a way to separately rout the two cities' riverboat and bridge defenses. During World Wars I and II European bridges constantly were blasted and rebuilt by attacking and retreating armies.

Early in the Philippine Revolution, Andres Bonifacio attempted to grab waterworks in Balara, Santolan, and San Juan del Monte. And Emilio Aguinaldo's Katipunan chapter stopped Spanish pursuers at the river bordering Cavite.

Water conservation too was crucial in the past. Uniting Mongol, Tatar and other nomadic tribes in the early 13th century, Genghis Khan founded a capital by the confluence of the Kherlen and Tsenker Rivers. Well, not so close by. He erected Avraga a good 30 minutes walk from the waterways. That's to avoid polluting them with too much human waste, and to escape insect infestation and flashfloods during the rainy season. Later at the headwaters of the Kherlen, Onon, and Tuul Rivers around the holy mountain Burhan Haldun, Genghis Khan designated a no-build zone. Let no man set up camp at the river sources, he ordered. With that he closed the Mongol homeland to all outsiders. Only the Mongol royalty was allowed to bury their dead there for two centuries. Closed family meetings and ceremonies were held in the secret center of the Mongol Empire.

In the Bible's Old Testament, which tells the history of Israel, water sources were prominent too. When Caleb married away his daughter, Achsah told him straightforward that she wanted the springs bounding the pasturelands she had just inherited. Caleb relented. And that became the territory of Judah to this day (Joshua 15:16-17). Of course, Jesus turning water into wine, to the delight of wedding guests at Cana, is perhaps the best story of smart water use.

\* \* \*

Catch *Sapol* radio show, Saturdays, 8-10 a.m., DWIZ (882-AM).

Gotcha archives: [www.philstar.com/columns/134276/gotcha](http://www.philstar.com/columns/134276/gotcha)







## Who protects those who protect us?

THE Philippines has been declared as the deadliest country for environmentalists. An irony considering that the Philippines is also hailed as one of the most mega-biodiverse countries, not only in Asia but in the entire world. A recognition that has been given to only 17 countries by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) due to the sheer number of both endemic and non-native species that can be found in our naturally rich islands and seas — but a title which also pays an unwanted and unfortunate price: life.

Life paid by our park rangers, environmental officers, NGO workers, volunteers, indigenous tribes and service people who have dedicated their sweat and literally blood in protecting nature and biodiversity in the Philippines. A price that can never be paid back. Last year, according to the report by the Global Witness, a non-profit organization that exposes exploitation and abuses globally, about three environmentalists were killed every single week throughout the year. Three mothers and fathers, siblings and friends separated forever from their children and families in this vague environmental war. Yet despite the decline of the total number of killings globally — 201 victims in 2017 to 164 victims in 2018 — the fact that these unjustified murders still exist shows an insidious, deeper and systemic issue within the governmental and industrial sectors of society, considering that these environmental killings occurred within the proximity of agricultural projects, mines and logging sites. Brazil, Guatemala and Mexico are some of the other countries where majority of these environmental killings occurred — countries that are stricken by poverty, corruption and bribery. Concerning issues that are ingrained and intertwined in the political and socioeconomic state that developing countries like the



INTO THE  
WILD

**GAB MEJIA**

Philippines are facing, but are being silenced due to the fear of flying bullets and the priceless payment that comes with it. Our country has always had this intractable problem of a weak rule of law, from something as simple as the chronic bribery of traffic officers to avoid being penalized to as grave as abusing the Constitution, perpetrated by those in power. Such viciousness is inexcusable, much more concerning to the culture it fosters on the enforcement of environmental laws and measures we desperately need and lack today. From the sugarcane plantations of Negros to the deep forested mountains of Palawan, it is during these times of silenced extrajudicial killings that we should voice out more against the atrocities and injustices that our country continues to face in honor of these "martyrs": a title we hope we may never get to see again in this day and age.

We need to invest further in both the promulgation and enforcement of environmental laws and republic acts to invest in these environmental protectors, a challenge for our government and educational institutions to grow teeth and the political will in order to safeguard the last few remaining natural spaces and wildernesses we have. We need to reevaluate and further see the true sociocultural and sustainable economic importance of protecting and conserving the environment. To start taking pride in our own natural heritage and home. It is time to protect those who protect us, because in this environmental war, no one is going to protect the Philippines but the Filipinos.

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**NAGKAKAGULO** ngayon sa Department of Health dahil sa national epidemic sanhi ng Dengvaxia.

Pinahahanap ngayon ng DOH sa lahat ng sangay ng ahensya ang mga naturukan ng bakunang Dengvaxia ngunit hindi nagkasakit ng dengue.

Ito'y para mabantayan ang kanilang kalagayan, nasa loob man sila ng ospital o nasa labas.

Pero siyempre, sa mga kinakapitan ngayon ng dengue sila maghahanap.

Ito kasing mga naturukan nang hindi muna nagkasakit ng dengue ang sinasabing matindi ang kalagayan kung magkadengue sila.

Maaari silang mamatay dahil mas matinding dengue ang aabutin nila kung naturukan sila nohn.

Inamin na kasi ang kalagayang ito mismo ng Sanofi Pasteur na may gawa ng nasabing bakuna.

### MALAKING PROBLEMA

May napakalaki nga lang na problema.

Una, napakalaking bilang ang 830,000 na nabakunahan at marami sa mga ito ang lumipat na ng mga tirahan.

Ikalawa, marami palang eskwelahan ang walang rekord dahil tangay-tangay ng mga nag-iniksiyon ang mga rekord ng mga iniksiyunan.

Ikatlo, dapat na hanapin pa ang mga tumangay ng mga rekord.

Ikaapat, hindi lang pala ang mga bata sa mga iskul ang iniksiyunan dahil marami ring taga-komunidad ang binakuhanan.

Nagkaroon ng maramihan, malawakan at paspasang pagbabakuna dahil ginamit ito na pang-akit ng boto para sa mga kandidato nina Noynoy noong presidential elections 2016.

At narito nga ngayon ang napakalaking problema.

### MARAMING AYAW

Marami pala sa mga itinatakbo sa ospital ang naturukan ng Dengvaxia.

Lumabas ito sa mga pahayag ng mga magulang na may mga tinamaan ng dengue na anak at nasa mga ospital.

Kung sila'y tinatanong, sabi nila, kahit ano ang mangyari, hindi nila hayaang maturukan muli ng Dengvaxia ang kanilang mga anak dahil nagkasakit pa rin ang mga ito ng dengue.

Lumitaw ang katanungan sa gitna ng pagpipilit ng isang kongresman at naging Health Secretary na ibalik ang Dengvaxia para masawata umano ang



## MAY DENGVAxia NA WALANG DENGUE, NASAAN SILA?

epidemya ng dengue sa buong bansa.

Anak ng tokwa, ayaw na nga ng mga magulang na maturukan ang kanilang mga anak ng Dengvaxia, ipinipilit pa ng kongresman na ito.

Dahil ba sa kasama si Kong sa mga nakademanda ng mga kasong kriminal dahil sa pagkamatay umano sa Dengvaxia ng maraming bata?

At kung papayag ang gobyerno na gamitin ang Dengvaxia, maaabswelto na sila sa mga kasong may parusang kulong at danyos perwisyo?

### HANAPIN SA 622 NAMATAY

Naiintindihan natin ang punto ng DOH na hanapin nila ang lahat ng buhay na naturukan ng Dengvaxia, may dengue man o wala, para mabantayan ang mga ito.

Ito'y para maagapan ang anomang masamang mangyari kung magkadengue sila at ang iba, para hindi makapitan ng dengue.

Pero dapat ding bigyan ng pansin ang mga nangagsimatay.

Sino-sino sa 622 namatay ang naturukan ng Dengvaxia nang hindi pa nagkasakit noon pero namatay ngayon?

Dito magiging malaki ang trabaho nina Public Attorney's Office chief Persida Acosta at mga kasamahan niya.

Panawagan natin sa mga namatayan, pwede nilang ipasuri kina Atty. Acosta ang mga namatay nila para malaman kung namatay ang mga ito sa mga epekto ng Dengvaxia sa mga hindi nagkadengue ngunit naturukan.

Ito'y para mapanagot sina ex-President Noynoy Aquino, dating DOH chief at ngayo'y Kong. Janette Garin, dating Budget Secretary Butch Abad sa kamatayan ng maraming tao dahil sa Dengvaxia.

### HINDI GUILTY

Ang sabi, hindi pa dapat sabihing guilty sina Noynoy and company.

At totoo namang itinuturing na inosente ang isang akusado hangga't hindi natatutunayang guilty ng mga hukuman, lalo na ang Korte Suprema.

Pero maganda na ring masalang ang mga ito sa kaso dahil hindi lang naman ang kamatayan ang laman ng

mga kaso kundi ang pagmaniobra nila para mapondohan ng P3.5 bilyon ang gamot sa mga kuwestiyonableng paraan.

Hayaan ang mga korte na magdaos ng mga paglilitis upang malaman kung ano talaga ang mga katotohanan at wala nang uulit sakaling may madedeklarang guilty sa mga kaso.

Kung mapawalang-sala naman sila sa mga akusasyon, wala tayong magagawa kundi sumunod sa desisyon dahil ang importante, daraan sila sa masusing paglilitis ng hukuman.

### MAGLINIS, DUMEPENSA

Depensahan natin ang ating mga sarili sa pagatake ng mga lamok na may dengue.

Hindi natin kailangang magpainiksiyon ng Dengvaxia gaya ng ipinipilit nina Garin.

Kabilang sa mga epektibong paraan laban sa dengue ang paglilinis sa loob at labas ng bahay para mawala ang mga katubigan na itlugaan at lunsaran ng mga lamok para umatake.

Magpatsekap agad sa doktor kung may nararamdaman tayong lagnat, butlig sa katawan, panghihina at iba pa na palatandaang ng dengue.

Sumali tayo lahat ng mga pagpapausok at paglilinis sa malawak na kapaligiran laban sa lamok.

Magsuot ng mahahabang damit, magkulambo at maghaplos ng anomang ayaw na kapitan ng lamok.

Ginagawa na ito mismo ng mga guro pagpasok ng mga bata sa mga iskul at dapat tularan sa loob ng ating mga tahanan.

At isang good news, maghanap ng tawa-tawa para pakuluan at inumin ng may dengue.

May nagawa nang mga tableta at magtanong sa ospital kung saan pwedeng bilhin ang mga tabletang ito.

Pinayagan ang tawa-tawa mismo ng DOH bilang gamot laban sa dengue.

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Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 09228403333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com