

DATE : 17 DEC 2013

DAY : Monday

# **DENR**

## **IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**



# Boracay-like rehab eyed for Manila Bay

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

**Following the six-month Boracay rehabilitation, the government is looking at replicating efforts to restore Manila Bay to its pristine state fit for recreation.**

"We are preparing for an all-out strategy to bring the coliform concentration in Manila Bay to a safe level so that the people who reside near the bay will enjoy its waters and marine resources without fear of getting sick," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said yesterday.

The DENR warned of potential closure of establishments along the shores of Manila Bay that do not comply with environmental regulations.

Cimatu said the government would show the same level of political will in cleaning up the bay that spans parts of the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) as it did in Boracay.

A report from the DENR Environmental Management Bureau showed that the fecal coliform level in the bay reached over 330 million most probable number per 100 milliliters, way above the safe level of only 100 MPN/100ml.

According to Cimatu, part of the DENR's strategy is to ensure the compliance with environmental laws of local government units (LGUs) surrounding the bay.

"I am calling on the LGUs to step up their efforts in (the cleanup) because it is their constituents who will benefit from a rehabilitated Manila Bay," he said.

A Manila Bay Command Center will be created to oversee the zonal operations of four field offices to be set up in six coastal cities in Metro Manila: Malabon-Navotas, Manila, Pasay-Parañaque and Las Piñas.

The field offices will be manned by DENR personnel, who would closely coordinate with city or municipal environment officers to ensure that cleanup activities and programs are carried out and sustained.

The DENR is also looking at technologies that would treat water of pollutants, whether directly discharged into the bay or through toilets, to address problems on human waste arising from the presence of informal settlers along the bay.

Cimatu said the DENR would also seek assistance from law enforcement agencies in going after violators of environmental laws, especially those who discharge untreated wastewater into the bay.

In 2008, the Supreme Court issued a continuing writ of mandamus, ordering 13 government agencies to clean up Manila Bay and restore its water quality to Class SB or safe for recreational activities such as swimming.

Class SB waters are also suitable for commercial propagation of shellfish and as spawning areas for milkfish and other similar species.

Manila Bay waters are considered the most polluted in the country due to domestic sewage, toxic industrial effluents from factories and shipping operations and leachate from garbage dumps, among others. — With Helen Flores

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Bay rehab comes next

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

**T**he Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is preparing to rehabilitate Manila Bay using the

same ambitious strategy that restored Boracay Island to its pristine condition.

Manila Bay is known for its beautiful sunsets but its waters are considered the most polluted in the country due

to domestic sewage, toxic industrial effluents from factories and shipping operations, and leachate from garbage dumps, among others.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said he is keen to have Manila Bay reha-

bilitated, restored, and maintained to a level fit for swimming, skin diving, and other contact forms of recreation.

"We are preparing for an all-out strategy to bring the coliform concentration in Manila Bay to a safe level so

that millions of people who reside in the bay region and neighboring areas will enjoy its waters and marine resources without fear of getting sick," Cimatu said.

He added that the DENR **►9**

## Manila Bay rehab...

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hopes to replicate what has been achieved in Boracay which, prior to undergoing six-month rehabilitation, was described as a "cesspool" by no less than President Rodrigo Duterte.

The DENR chief said the government will show the same level of political will in cleaning up the bay that spans three major regions — National Capital Region (NCR), Central Luzon and CALABARZON — as it did in Boracay, a tiny island in Western Visayas.

A 2017 report by the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau showed that the fecal coliform level in Manila Bay reached as high as over 330 million most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliters. The safe level is only 100 MPN/100ml.

According to Cimatu, part of the DENR's strategy is to ensure compliance with environmental laws among all local government units (LGUs) surrounding Manila Bay.

"I am calling on all LGUs to step up their efforts in cleaning up the bay because it is their own constituents who will benefit (from a rehabilitated Manila Bay)," Cimatu said.

He revealed that a Manila Bay Command Center under the DENR-NCR would be created to oversee the zonal operations of four field offices to be set

up in six coastal cities of Metro Manila, namely: Malabon-Navotas, Manila, Pasay-Parañaque, and Las Piñas.

These field offices would be manned by personnel who will closely coordinate with city or municipal environment officers to ensure that cleanup activities and programs are being carried out and sustained.

To address problems on human waste arising from the presence of informal settlers along the bay, DENR is looking at technologies that would treat water of pollutants, whether directly discharged into the bay or through toilets.

Cimatu said DENR would also seek assistance from law enforcement agencies in going after violators of environmental laws, especially those who discharge untreated wastewater into the bay.

In 2008, the Supreme Court issued a continuing writ of mandamus ordering 13 government agencies to clean up Manila Bay and restore its water quality to Class SB, or safe for recreational activities such as swimming.

Class SB waters are also suitable for commercial propagation of shellfish and as spawning areas for milkfish and other similar species. (Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz)



## DENR eyes major Manila Bay rehab

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) bared plans to rehabilitate Manila Bay using the same scheme adopted in Boracay.

In a statement on Sunday, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the agency is looking forward to the rehabilitation and restoration of the polluted bay. He said the agency wants to make the bay fit for swimming, diving and other forms of water recreation.

"We are preparing for an all-out strategy to bring the coliform concentration in Manila Bay to a safe level so that millions of people who reside in the bay region and neighboring areas will enjoy its waters and marine resources without fear of getting sick," Cimatu said.

He said lowering the coliform levels in Manila Bay is possible by replicating the strategies used in Boracay, which underwent a six-month rehabilitation because of trash, water pollution, and environment degradation.

Manila Bay is known for having one of the most beautiful sunsets in the world. However, its waters

are deemed unsafe because of domestic sewage, toxic industrial effluents from factories and shipping operations, and leachate from garbage dumps, among others.

Cimatu gave assurances that the government will show political will in cleaning up the Manila Bay that spans three major regions — National Capital Region, Central Luzon and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon provinces) or Region 4-A.

He also called on local government units to step up their efforts in cleaning up the bay.

The Environment chief said his agency would set up a Manila Bay Command Center that would oversee the operations of four field offices to be established in six coastal cities in Metro Manila — Malabon-Navotas, Manila, Pasay-Parañaque, and Las Piñas. These field offices, Cimatu said, would be manned by personnel tasked to closely coordinate with the city or municipal environment officers to ensure that the cleanup activities and programs are being carried out and sustained.

**EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

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## DENR sets all-out Manila Bay rehab

By Rio Araja

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources is preparing to embark on a “highly ambitious and more complicated” endeavor in the restoration of the Manila Bay to its pristine state.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said that Manila Bay is known for having one of the most beautiful sunsets but its waters are considered the most polluted due to domestic sewage, toxic industrial effluents from factories and shipping operations, and leachate from garbage dumps.

He said he was keen to have Manila Bay rehabilitated, restored and maintained to

a level fit for swimming, skin diving and other contact forms of recreation.

“We are preparing for an all-out strategy to bring the coliform concentration in Manila Bay to a safe level so that millions of people who reside in the bay region and neighboring areas will enjoy its waters and marine resources without fear of getting sick,” he said.

Cimatu said they want to replicate

what has been achieved in Boracay Island once described as a “cesspool” by President Rodrigo Duterte.

According to Cimatu, the government would show the same level of political will in cleaning up the bay spanning three major regions—Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Calabarzon or Region 4A “as it did in Boracay, a tiny island in Western Visayas.”

A 2017 report by the DENR’s Environmental Management Bureau showed that the fecal coliform level in Manila Bay reached as high as 330 million most probable number per 100 milliliters. The safe level is only 100 MPN/100ml.

The DENR chief said part of their strategy is to ensure compliance with environmental laws among all local gov-

ernment units surrounding Manila Bay.

“I am calling on all LGUs to step up their efforts in cleaning up the bay because it is their own constituents who will benefit (from a rehabilitated Manila Bay),” he said.

A Manila Bay command center under the DENR’s National Capital Region office would be created to oversee the zonal operations of four field offices to be set up in six coastal cities in the metro—Malabon-Navotas, Manila, Pasay-Parañaque, and Las Piñas.

To address problems on human waste arising from the presence of informal settlers along the bay, the DENR is looking at technologies that would treat water of pollutants, whether directly discharged into the bay or through toilets.



## 'LGUs with no water waste treatment a failure'

"LOCAL government units (LGUs) without waste water treatment are a failure."

This was the statement of lawyer Ipat Luna, executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Calabarzon, during an interview at the recently held Manila Bay Summit in Malvar, Batangas.

According to her, 90 percent of the pollution in Manila Bay is from domestic waste. The Calabarzon region is considered as a major contributor because wastes that go to Laguna Lake eventually end up in Manila Bay.

"We are asking the LGUs to help us enforce sanctions against those staying in the easements because if we would be able to prevent them [from putting up houses] we would spend a lesser amount than relocate them," said Luna.

A presentation by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) revealed that LGUs are not keen on participating in the government's National Sewerage and Septage Management Program (NSSMP).

In 2012, the National Economic Development Authority approved a 40 percent budgetary support for 17 highly urbanized cities outside Metro Manila that want to implement a sewerage project.

The agency received only seven letters of intent and four application letters.

Because of this, amendments were made in 2014 and the budgetary support was increased to 50 percent. Despite the increase, Zamboanga City only received an approval for the program among LGUs.

Luna admitted that implementing a sewerage project is very costly for LGUs but she said there are many possible schemes to make it affordable. Not acting upon the problem now will result in a bigger expense for the LGUs in the future.

She said LGUs would spend more for the medical needs of its constituents if water is not treated since this could cause pollution and would lead to mass casualty incidents.

The DENR is appealing to the LGUs to file their application for the NSSMP project of the DPWH, hoping that the national government would increase and continually fund the program.

At present, only 15 percent of Metro Manila has sewerage coverage and only industrial parks and newly developed subdivisions implement waste water management in the entire Calabarzon, which is comprised of the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon.

**TINA GANZON-OZAETA**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE



17 DEC 2018

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By Cory  
Martinez

# DENR vows to restore Manila Bay's pristine state

**THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has vowed to restore the pristine state of Manila Bay with the aim of achieving a level that is fit for swimming, scuba diving and other contact forms of recreation.**

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu made the commitment saying that he is keen to have the Manila Bay rehabilitated and restored by adopting the same strategy that was used in the rehabilitation of the world's famous island-resort Boracay.

Although Manila Bay is known for having one of the most beautiful sunsets, its waters are considered the most polluted due to domestic sewage, toxic industrial effluents from factories and shipping operations, and leachate from garbage dumps, among others.

"We are preparing for an all-out strategy to bring the coliforms concentration in Manila Bay to a

safe level so that millions of people who reside in the bay region and neighboring areas will enjoy its waters and marine resources without fear of getting sick," Cimatu said.

Cimatu said the DENR hopes to replicate what has been achieved in Boracay which, prior to undergoing six-month rehabilitation, was described as a "cesspool" by no less than President Rodrigo Duterte.

He explained that the government will show the same level of political will in cleaning up the bay that spans three major regions (National Capital Region (NCR), Central Luzon and CALABARZON or Region 4A) as it did in Boracay, a tiny island in Western Visayas.

A 2017 report by the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau showed that the fecal coliform level in Manila Bay reached as high as over 330 million Most Probable Number (MPN) per 100 milliliters. The

safe level is only 100MPN/100ml.

According to Cimatu, part of the DENR's strategy is to ensure the compliance with environmental laws among all local government units (LGUs) surrounding Manila Bay.

"I am calling on all LGUs to step up their efforts in cleaning up the bay because it is their own constituents who will benefit (from a rehabilitated Manila Bay)," Cimatu said.

He revealed that a Manila Bay Command Center under the DENR-NCR regional office would be created to oversee the zonal operations of four field offices to be set up in six coastal cities of Metro Manila, namely: Malabon-Navotas, Manila, Pasay-Parañaque, and Las Piñas.

These field offices would be manned by personnel, who would closely coordinate with city or municipal environment officers to ensure that

cleanup activities and programs are being carried out and sustained.

The DENR is also looking at technologies that would treat water of pollutants, whether directly discharged into the bay or through toilets from the informal settlers living along the bay and coastal areas.

Cimatu said the DENR would seek assistance from law enforcement agencies in going after violators of environmental laws, especially those

who discharge untreated wastewater into the bay.

In 2008, the Supreme Court issued a continuing writ of mandamus ordering 13 government agencies to clean up Manila Bay and restore its water quality to Class SB, or safe for recreational activities such as swimming.

Class SB waters are also suitable for commercial propagation of shellfish and as spawning areas for milkfish and other similar species.



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## MANILA BAY IRE-REHABILITATE NG DENR

MATAPOS ang matagumpay na rehabilitasyon sa Boracay, naghahanda ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources para gamitin ang makabagong pamamaraan para muling ibalik ang ningning at i-rehabilitate ang Manila Bay.

Sa kabila ng kilala ang Manila Bay sa may pinakamagandang sunset, ang kanyang tubig naman ay kinokonsidera bilang polluted sa buong bansa dahil sa pagtatapon ng basura, toxic industrial mula sa mga pabrika at shipping operations.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu masigasig siya para muling i-rehabilitate ang Manila Bay at ibalik ang ganda nito para muling pagliguan gaya ng dati, mag-skin diving at iba pang libangan.

"We are preparing for an all-out strategy to bring the coliform concentration in Manila Bay to a safe level so that millions of people who reside in the bay region and neighboring areas will enjoy its waters and marine resources without fear of getting sick," ayon kay Cimatu.

Nabatid na umaasa ang DENR na kung anoman ang nakuhang tagumpay sa Boracay nang sumailalim sa anim na buwang rehabilitasyon matapos ipasara ni President Duterte ang naturang isla ganundin ang mangyayari sa Manila Bay.

Ayon pa sa environment chief, ang gobyerno ay magpapakita ng parehong level at political will para linisin ang Manila Bay gaya ng ginawa nito sa Boracay na napalilibutan ng National Capital Region (NCR), Central Luzon at CALABARZON o Region 4A.

Sa 2017 report ng DENR's Environmental Management Bureau ipinakita na ang fecal coliform level sa Manila Bay ay umabot na sa mahigit sa 330 milyon mas mataas sa number per 100 milliliters. Ang safe level ay nasa 100 MPN/100ml lamang.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu, bilang bahagi ng DENR's strategy ay tiyakin ang compliance ng environmental laws kabilang dito ang lahat ng local government unit sa pallingid ng Manila Bay.

"I am calling on all LGUs to step up their efforts in cleaning up the bay because it is their own constituents who will benefit (from a rehabilitated Manila Bay)," ani pa ni Cimatu.

**SANTI CELARIO**





# Balita

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANGSA

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## Manila Bay ire-rehab, ala-Boracay

Pinaghahandaan na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, gamit ang estratehiyang nagpabalik sa orihinal na ganda ng isla ng Boracay sa Aklan.

Bagamat kilala sa maganda nitong sunset, ikinokonsiderang isa sa pinakamarumi sa bansa ang tubig ng Manila Bay dahil sa iba't ibang uri ng basura at dumi na napupunta sa bahaging ito ng tubig.

Sinabi ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na desidido siyang isailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang Manila Bay at ibalik ang ganda nito sa antas na maaaring paglanguyan, at pagdausan ng iba't ibang aktibidad.

"We are preparing for an all-out strategy to bring the coliform concentration in Manila Bay to a safe level so that millions of people who reside in the bay region and neighboring areas will enjoy its waters and marine resources without fear of getting sick," ani Cimatu.

Sinabi pa ng kalihim na umaasa ang DENR na maitulad ang Manila Bay sa nakamit ng Boracay, na bago sumailalim sa

anim na buwang rehabilitasyon ay tinawag na "cesspool" ni Pangulong Duterte.

Ibinahagi rin ni Cimatu ang paglikha ng Manila Bay Command Center sa ilalim ng DENR-NCR upang mabantayan ang zonal operations ng apat na field office na itatayo sa anim na coastal cities ng Metro Manila: Malabon-Navotas, Manila, Pasay-Parañaque, at Las Piñas.

Hihingin din ng DENR ang tulong ng mga awtoridad laban sa mga lalabag sa batas, lalo na ang mga magtatapon ng anumang dumi sa Manila Bay.

**Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz**



## Boracay water rates to rise on Jan. 1

WATER RATES in Boracay are set to increase starting Jan. 1, 2019 equivalent to 18.08% of this year's basic water and sewer charge, the island's water regulator said in a notice published during the weekend.

"The increase represents the third tranche of the approved 2017 Rate Re-basing adjustment and the corresponding inflation rate," said the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority-Regulatory Office.

"Furthermore a 3.0% increase shall be applied to the Basic Water and Sewer Charge to account for Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA)," it added in the notice to Boracay Island Water Co., Inc. customers.

Starting next year, the basic water charge for residential "A" category water users or those consuming no more than 10 cubic meters (cu.m.) will be at P557.82 per connection from P472.41 previously.

For those consuming 11 to 20 cu.m., the new rate will be P105.99 per cu.m., while for those using 21 to 50 cu.m., the rate will be P156.18 per cu.m.

Their previous rates were P89.76 and P132.27 per cu.m., respectively.

For residential "B" consumers using no more than 10 cu.m., the new rate will be P313.48 per connection from P313.48 previously.

For commercial "A" consumers, or those using no more than 10 cu.m., the

basic charge will be P1,394.51 per connection.

Those consuming 11 to 50 cu.m. will be charged P167.33 per cu.m., while those using 51 to 100 cu.m. will be pay P195.25 per cu.m. Consumers using more than 100 cu.m. will be charged P223.10 per cu.m.

The rate for Commercial "B" consumers using 10 cu.m. and below will be P836.71 per connection. Consumers in the 11-50 cu.m., 51-100 cu.m. and more than 100 cu.m. brackets will pay P153.39, P181.28 and P209.18 per cu.m., respectively.

Water concessionaires are allowed to recover losses or give back gains through the FCDA tariff mechanism

that factors in the movements of the peso against foreign currencies.

The FCDA mechanism was set because the water concessionaires pay foreign currency-denominated concession fees, as well as loans to fund service improvement projects that will expand and upgrade water and wastewater services.

It also allows them to sustain their program to cut water losses or non-revenue water and bring the supply to the underserved and unserved sectors in their service areas.

Boracay Water is a subsidiary of Manila Water Philippine Ventures, Inc., which is in turn a wholly owned subsidiary of Manila Water Co., Inc. — **Victor V. Saulon**

## P150M dagdag pondo sa Bora rehab

MAY nakalaan na P150 milyong pondo ang gobyerno para sa pagpatuloy ng rehabilitasyon ng Boracay island sa unang bahagi ng reenacted budget para sa 2019, ayon kay Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza.

"The fresh funding is a go, even if the government temporarily runs on a reenacted budget next year," ani Atienza.

Kasama sa gagastusan ng pondo ang pagkakaroon ng Boracay Island Critical Habitat, operasyon ng Boracay Water Quality Management Area, landfills at materials recovery facilities, patuloy na monitoring ng kalidad ng tubig at hangin sa lugar at pag-aaral sa environ-

mental pollution.

"The designated Boracay Island Critical Habitat covers some 750 hectares of forestland and coastal marine areas," aniya. "The demarcated critical habitat is mainly in Barangays Balabag and Yapak, where the flying foxes are concentrated."

Mayroong tatlong barangay sa isla—Balabag, Yapak at Manoc-Manoc--na bahagi ng bayan ng Malay.

"In the case of marine turtles, they may not produce offspring if their natural habitat gets disturbed by too many people around," ani Atienza na tinukoy ang kahalagahan na pangalagaan ang isla.

"In the past, unchecked diving and snorkeling spoiled the island's natural underwater habitat."

Muling binuksan ang Boracay noong Oktubre matapos itong isara nang anim na buwan.—*Leifbilly Begas*

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



**Boracay folk see cruise ship stops as nuisance**

ILOILO CITY—Several residents and business operators on Boracay Island are protesting stopovers of cruise ships on the island, which reopened less than two months ago after a six-month rehabilitation.

They said the cruise ships contributed to the congestion on the island but without bringing significant livelihood to residents and business operators.

“The cruise ship passengers worsen foot and vehicular traffic. These should not be encouraged by the government,” a longtime resident and business owner told the Inquirer.

The source requested anonymity for fear of antagonizing officials enforcing policies on the is-

land.

The cruise ships bring from 2,000 to 4,000 tourists to the island who stay for only a few hours before returning to their ships.

The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force had said that it was enforcing a regulation to limit the number of tourists on the island to 6,405 daily.

“We were closed down for six months, many lost their livelihood and jobs and business operators bled a lot,” an expatriate said.

“Several have not reopened or have closed own permanently. If we allow these cruise ships, we will be throwing out all those sacrifices,” the expatriate added.

Tourists, who are

bound for Boracay, are required to book accommodations before going to the island so that the number of arrivals can be monitored.

Booking confirmation is checked at the Caticlan Jetty Port, the jump-off point to the island.

The Department of Tourism has accredited 268 establishments offering accommodations on the island as of Dec. 4. The establishments have a total of 9,637 rooms.

A study commissioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has determined that only 249 hotels and resorts were needed to keep the number of tourists within the island’s carrying capacity.

—Inquirer



## AS A MATTER OF FACT

SARA SOLIVEN DE GUZMAN

### Why is DENR not shutting down unregulated and illegal mines?

If the DENR chief under the direction of the President can shut down Boracay, then why can't this Administration shut down unregulated and illegal mines?

Mining destroys the environment. Any person who says that mining is good for the country is a fool. Only those who make money out of it are those who fight to protect the industry.

Haven't we learned from the: Lao-baidong colliery disaster in Datong, China (1960) estimated to have 682 deaths due to a gas explosion; Coalbrook colliery disaster in Clydesdale, South Africa (1960) with 435 deaths; the Mitsui Miike Coal Mine disaster in Fukuoka, Japan (1963) with 458 deaths due to a gas explosion; the Wankie Coal Mine disaster in Hwange, Zimbabwe (1972) causing 426 deaths due to suffocation; Chasnala coal mine disaster in Dhanbad, India (1975) causing 372 deaths of miners due to drowning.

Most recently, in 2005, two hundred thirty-two miners died in a coal shaft explosion in Fuxin coal-mining region in southwestern China. In 2007, ninety were killed in post-Soviet Ukraine during a methane blast in a coal mine near the eastern city of Donetsk. In 2012, sixty people died at a gold mine in northeast Congo due to a landslide. In 2013, eighty-three workers were buried by a massive landslide at a gold mining site in Tibet.

Drea Knufken who wrote, "The World's Worst Environmental Disasters Caused by Companies" reported that: 50,000 residents live in 120 villages, along 500 square miles of Ok Tedi River in Papua New Guinea. A mining company named after the river—Ok Tedi River Mining, Ltd.—has forever altered their way of life. Ok Tedi River mining has been dumping about 90 million tons of waste per year into the river. Australia's BHP, 52% one-time owner of Ok Tedi Mine, drummed up an ad campaign declaring the waste to be "virtually identical" to natural sediment. Four years later, BHP released a statement "regretting" the comparison. The residents rejected their apology, sued BHP and won \$28.6 million. In 1999, BHP dissolved their ownership in Ok Tedi Mining, admitting that they were not compatible with BHP's environmental values.

In another case she wrote: 450 miles from Perth Australia lies the 14,500-resident town of Esperance. Outside of town, a mining company named Magellan Metals extracts, removes and transports lead. Magellan is required to transport lead within strict guidelines, so that nobody inhales or ingests it. The West Australian Government admits to knowing two years prior to the mine's opening that it failed to properly load and transport lead through Esperance. It took the death of 4,000 birds, tainted drinking water, and off-the-charts blood levels of lead in local residents to convene an inquiry.

Michael J. McKinley wrote in his "Disasters: Environmental Mining Accidents," that Summitville Mine in Colorado that gold was mined from 1870 until 1992. According to McKinley, "broken pump lines and a French drain beneath the leach pad caused cyanide-contaminated solutions to be released into the local watershed; several waste rock piles at the mine reacted with rain and snowmelt to form acidic waters that flowed into area streams."

He also wrote about the Iron Mountain Mine in California, where mining for copper, gold, silver, and zinc began in 1879 and continued until 1963 using underground and open-pit methods. He reported that: The site contains inactive mines and numerous waste piles from which harmful quantities of untreated acidic, metal-rich waters were discharged. Mining operations fractured the mountain, changing the hydrology and exposing the mineral deposit to oxygen and water, which resulted in intense acid mine drainage into nearby creeks and waterways. These caused numerous fish kills and posed a health risk to the area drinking water.



We shouldn't forget the disastrous effects mining has to the ecosystems, wildlife and human populations not to mention climate change. I don't understand why the government has not made an aggressive stand on this unfathomable environmental destruction.

If the government doesn't take action, the local folk should learn to protect their environment by speaking up to protect their rights and to preserve their environment. A silent community will allow all the corrupt officials to sign contracts and memorandum of agreement with mining contractors which will be clearly fatal to the town, the province and to the country.

How can we ever forget that worst mining disasters in Marcopper, Marinduque and in Philex's Padcal Mines in Benguet, where thousands of Igorots in the Mountain Province and local fishermen in Calancan Bay were killed and where many babies were allegedly born deformed along the Marinduque River.

Wasn't the President at some point angered by mining issues when he visited Benguet where dozens perished in landslides near mining areas? Didn't he expressed the thought of "closing" the country's mining industry. Didn't DENR Secretary Cimatú suspend small-scale operations in the Cordillera Administrative Region after the deaths of miners who died due to a landslide at the height of the typhoon? So, what happened? Why only react after something bad has happened? Other regions are suffering from the threats of mining. Local officials are playing dumb as usual.

Abden M. Balde Jr., commissioner in the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino representing the Bicol language cries foul to the work of Minekraft Resources Corp. to mine the limestone rich areas in Camalig, Albay. Apparently, the natural contour of the land may drive flood water from Camalig to Jovellar affecting nearby towns. This sounds similar to the problems in towns of Zambales where mining is rampant.

The proposal to mine limestone in the area was strongly opposed by Nini Ravanilla, regional director of the Department of Tourism in Bicol, because it would destroy the tourist destinations found in 8 barangays that will be affected by the mine. She said, "Our agency vehemently opposes Minekraft Resources Corporation's application for exploration as not only the environmental impact of mining has a detrimental effect on the currently thriving natural and environmental tourism products of Camalig. It will also place into wastage almost half a billion pesos in investments made by the government in improving access and connectivity, and in tourism product development."

Balde said, "In a country like the Philippines where technology and availability of equipment are lagging behind and all we have are the mine sites, and politicians and local government who are generally corrupt, the foreign miners that we attract are those who are apt to simply rape our land for money. Why go to more expensive, clean operations when they could bribe their way to maximize profits?"

These foreign financed miners, in cahoots with corrupt local officials, start small and look innocent. They will apply for 20 to 30 years concessions and start clean operations. Later, they will apply for "expansions" and creep their way to the rich areas, and to hell if these are protected, or cultural, or sacred lands. They know that in our rural areas money talks.

On July 2018, DENR Secretary Cimatú lifted the ban on accepting, processing and approving applications for exploration permits. That was done to attract foreign direct investments to the Philippines. Yes, allowing new mining development in the country. *Sanamagan!*

In desperate times like this, it helps to recall what Mahatma Ghandi once wrote: *To me political power is not an end but one of the means of enabling people to better their condition in every department of life. Political power means capacity to regulate national life through national representatives.*

I truly hope and pray that one day our leaders (both in the public and private sectors) will wake up to save the country and not just themselves.



# Smuggled snakes seized at NAIA

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport foiled an attempt to smuggle into the country two shipments of Sumatran blood pythons from Indonesia declared as taro chips on Friday.

**Customs personnel intercept smuggled pythons at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Friday.**

RUDY SANTOS

Shipped with no import permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the six snakes were turned over to the DENR Wild-

life Traffic Monitoring Unit. The rest were found dead upon examination.

The first shipment was

consigned to Richard Mercado, of Barangay Laging Handa in Quezon City, according to the BOC.

Another shipment also declared as taro chips and consigned to Rosebelle Ane, of Tomas Mapua in Sta. Cruz, Manila, was sent by Aziz Irwanto of Tangerang. It contained three dead blood pythons.

Charges of violations of Republic Act 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act and RA 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act would be filed against the consignees of the shipments.

- Rudy Santos





# Climate deal reached after emotional negotiations

**KATOWICE (Reuters) — Nearly 200 countries overcame political divisions late on Saturday to agree on rules for implementing a landmark global climate deal, but critics say it is not ambitious enough to prevent the dangerous effects of global warming.**

After two weeks of talks in the Polish city of Katowice, nations finally reached consensus on a more detailed framework for the 2015 Paris Agreement, which aims to limit a rise in average world temperatures to “well below” two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

“It is not easy to find agreement on a deal so specific and technical. Through this package you have made a thousand little steps forward together. You can feel proud,” Polish president of the talks Michal Kurtyka told delegates.

After he struck the gavel to signal agreement had been reached, ministers joined him on the stage, hugging and laughing in signs of relief after the marathon talks. Before the talks started, many expected the deal would not be as robust as needed.

The unity, which underpinned the Paris talks, has fragmented and US President Donald Trump intends to pull his country — one of the world’s biggest emitters — out of the pact.

At the 11th hour, ministers managed to break a deadlock between Brazil and other countries over the accounting rules for the monitoring of carbon credits, deferring the bulk of that discussion to next year, but missing an opportunity to send a signal to businesses to speed up their actions.

Still, exhausted ministers managed to bridge a series of divides to produce a 156-page rulebook — which is broken down into themes such as how countries will report and monitor their national pledges to curb greenhouse gas emissions and update their emissions plans.

Not everyone is happy with everything, but the process is still on track and it is something to build on, several ministers said.

“While some rulebook elements still need to be fleshed out, it is a foundation for strengthening the Paris Agreement and could help facilitate US re-entry into the Paris Agreement by a future presidential administration,” said Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Some countries and green groups criticized the outcome for failing to urge increased ambitions on emissions cuts sufficiently to curb rising temperatures. Poorer nations vulnerable to climate change also wanted more clarity on how an already agreed \$100 billion a year of climate finance by 2020 will be provided and on efforts to build on that amount further from the end of the decade.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Nations agree on milestone rulebook for Paris climate treaty

Nations on Sunday struck a deal to breathe life into the landmark 2015 Paris climate treaty after marathon UN talks that failed to match the ambition the world's most vulnerable countries need to avert dangerous global warming.

Delegates from nearly 200 states finalized a common rule book designed to deliver the Paris goals of limiting global temperature rises to well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit).

"Putting together the Paris agreement work program is a big responsibility," said COP24 president Michal Kurtyka as he gavelled through the deal after talks in Poland that ran deep into overtime.

"It has been a long road. We did our best to leave no one behind."

But states already dealing with devastating floods, droughts and extreme weather made worse by climate change said the package agreed in the mining city of Katowice lacked the bold ambition to cut emissions the world needed.

Egyptian ambassador Wael Aboulmagd, chair of the developing nations G77 plus China negotiating bloc, said the rule book saw the "urgent adaptation needs of developing countries relegated to a second-class status."

Executive director of Greenpeace Jennifer Morgan said: "We continue to witness

an irresponsible divide between the vulnerable island states and impoverished countries pitted against those who would block climate action or who are immorally failing to act fast enough."

The final decision text was repeatedly delayed as negotiators sought guidelines that could ward off the worst threats posed by the heating planet while protecting the economies of rich and poor nations alike.

"Without a clear rulebook, we won't see how countries are tracking, whether they are actually doing what they say they are doing," Canada's Environment Minister Catherine McKenna told AFP.

At their heart, negotiations were about how each nation funds action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as how those actions are reported.

French President Emmanuel Macron, who has recently backed down on anti-pollution fuel tax hikes in the face of country-wide "yellow vest" protests, said France must "show the way" as he welcomed the progress made at the talks.

"The international community remains committed to the fight against climate change," he tweeted on Sunday.

"Congratulations to the UN, scientists, NGOs and all negotiators. France and Europe must show the way. The fight goes on."

Developing nations had wanted more



**COMMON RULE BOOK** – Representatives of nearly 200 nations have been holding talks at the UN's COP24 Summit in the Polish mining city of Katowice. (AFP)

clarity from richer ones over how the future climate fight will be funded and pushed for so-called "loss and damage" measures.

This would see richer countries giving money now to help deal with the effects of climate change many vulnerable states are already experiencing.

Another contentious issue was the integrity of carbon markets, looking ahead

to the day when the patchwork of distinct exchanges – in China, the Europe Union, parts of the United States – may be joined up in a global system.

The Paris Agreement calls for setting up a mechanism to guard against practices, such as double counting emissions savings, that could undermine such a market. (AFP)





## Weaker climate consensus, elevated climate change – especially in PH

P-1

As the UN climate conference concluded with the expected dissension, efforts to contain global climate change are weakening at the worst historical moment. Asia, including the Philippines, will pay much of the consequent bill.

AS representatives from more than 100 countries debated climate change in the COP24 — the 24th UN climate change conference — held in Katowice, Poland, the outcome could only be divisive.

In the past, collective consensus by major economic powers — US, the EU, Japan and China — fueled success. Now the planned withdrawal of the US from the Paris Climate Agreement resulted in a hollow consensus, supported by big-oil opposition.

Like the recent G20 Summit, which welcomed trade but did not reject protectionism that undermines trade, Katowice agreed on a “compromise,” which welcomed the alarming climate UN (IPCC) report, but not its actual findings. The price could be the virtual extinction of small island states as sea levels rise, followed by soaring costs of climate change in emerging and developing economies, particularly in Asia.

Katowice’s “administrative” compromise virtually ensures that the extreme urgency required by the “rule book,” which would allow countries to implement the Paris Agreement, will be ignored.

### Planned Trump exit from Paris accord

Risks have escalated since June 1, 2017, when President Donald Trump announced his decision to withdraw the US from the Paris Climate Agreement — an international pact intended to reduce the effects of climate change by maintaining global temperatures “well below 2 degrees celsius above pre-industrial levels.”

The accord was negotiated by almost 200 parties and adopted by consensus in December-2015. Based on the UN convention on climate change, it focuses on greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in 2020.



**DAN STEINBOCK**

However, Trump calls the pact a “bad deal” for the US and sees the withdrawal as a key piece of the “America First” stance. The White House began to pave the exit path in March 2017, when Trump signed an executive order to start the formal process of repealing President Obama’s climate agenda.

The withdrawal split the White House, the Congress and the nation. A few powerful lobbying groups, energy giants and billionaires effectively hijacked the fight against climate change, which most Americans and US cities support.

More recently, the White House ignored a new government report, which concluded that, in the absence of significant steps to subdue global warming, US economy will take severe hits and cause the death of thousands of Americans by 2100.

It is within the US President’s constitutional authority to withdraw from the Paris deal without first receiving congressional or senatorial approval. But legal questions linger as to how the Trump White House can execute the withdrawal and what role the US can play in future international climate meetings.

### The role of China, emerging and developing economies

Since the early 2010s, it has often been said that China is the “world’s greatest polluter.” That’s true but only in aggregate terms. By default, big nations pollute more than small ones. Moreover, emerging economies that are still industrializing generate relatively more pollution than advanced nations, which industrialized over a century ago.

The simple fact remains that, on per capita basis, the US and major European economies remain the greatest polluters by far, however.

According to research, China contributes barely 10 to 12 percent of human influence on climate change. That figure has remained fairly steady over the industrial period. It is lower than might be expected for the world’s largest aggregate emitter.

As the major advanced economies, including the US and Europe, have been emitting far longer, their net contribution on climate change remains relatively far higher. Climate change is not just cumulative

but accumulative. If the US exit will materialize, global climate risks will intensify dramatically, particularly in emerging and developing economies.

### PH and other countries most affected by climate risk

Between 1998 and 2017, Puerto Rico, Honduras and Myanmar ranked highest among the countries that have been most affected by climate change. Less developed countries are generally more affected than industrialized countries. Yet, even high income countries feel climate impacts more clearly than ever before.

Regarding future climate change, the new Global Climate Risk Index can serve as a red flag for already existing vulnerability that may further increase in regions where extreme events will become more frequent or more severe due to climate change. The 10 countries most affected in the past two decades feature mainly poorer economies in Asia (Myanmar, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnam and Thailand) and Americas (Honduras, Haiti, Nicaragua and Guatemala) (see figure).

The index measures long-term global risk as a function of death toll, deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, absolute losses in US dollar millions, losses per unit GDP in percentage and total number of climate events from 1998 to 2017. In this regard, there are differences among the most affected countries.



In the case of Puerto Rico, the top rank was driven by a very high death toll and costly economic losses, but the number of events was low relative to other countries. In Myanmar, the high death toll explains the score. In Dominica, Puerto Rico and Haiti, the losses per unit GDP drove high rankings.

The Philippines is positioned in a particularly bad way in future climate risks, as evidenced by the total cost of damage in the, which was estimated at more than \$7 billion around 2005-2015 (Philippines Statistics Authority). In the Climate Risk Index, its death toll has been relatively high in the past two decades, while economic losses were among the highest. But it is the number of total events in the Philippines (over 300) that was the highest among the top 10 countries.

Only Vietnam and Bangladesh come close, but even they had only two-thirds of the climate events in the Philippines. And in the top-ranking Puerto Rico and Honduras, total events were less than a 10th and 5th of those in the Philippines.

Along with other worst-affected countries, the Philippines needs a particularly strong policy stance and enforcement discipline against climate change.

## Toward accelerated climate change

Since the 1980s typhoons that strike East and Southeast Asia have intensified by 12 to 15

percent, with the proportion of storms of categories 4 and 5 having doubled, even tripled. Under increasing greenhouse gas forcing, the projected ocean surface warming pattern suggests that typhoons striking Asia will intensify further.

Ironically, global climate change will penalize particularly those economies where living standards remain low and that are most vulnerable to collateral damage. The more poor economies lose lives, the more that will bespeak the effective indifference of advanced nations toward real human rights.

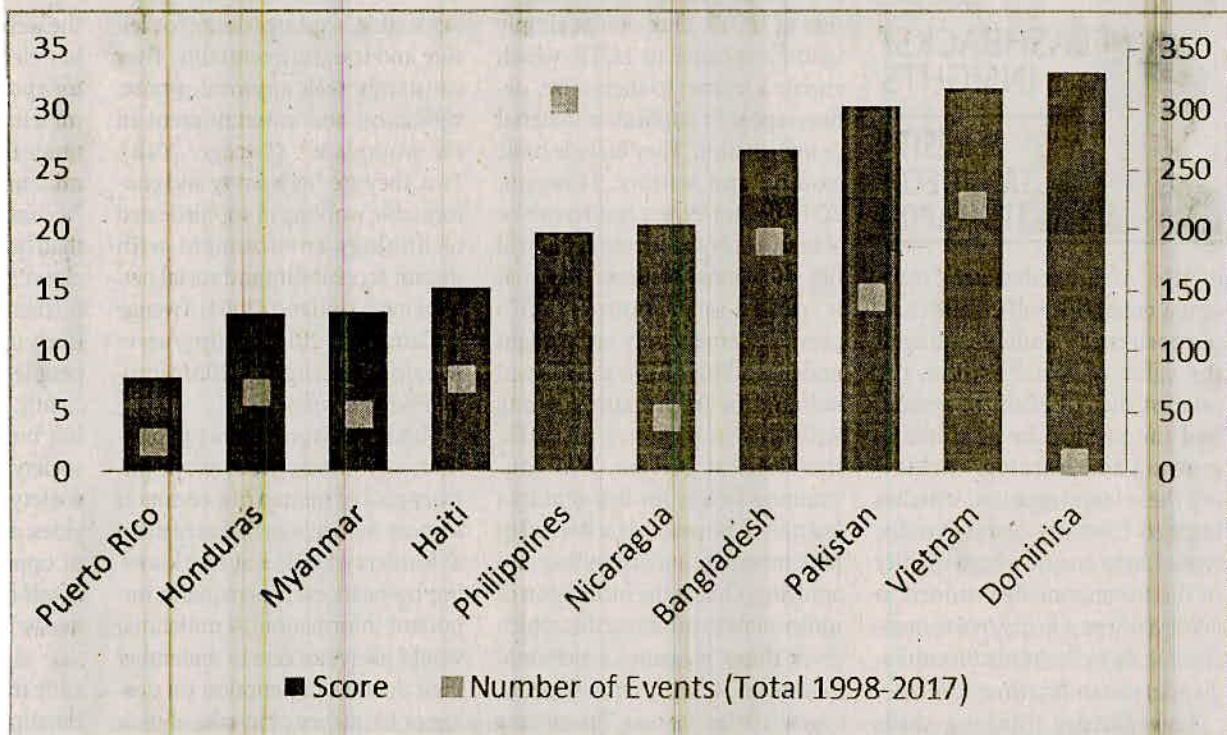
Timing matters. Under the agreement, the earliest date of the US withdrawal is November 2020 — the last month of the Trump presidency, in the absence of a prior impeachment. That's when Americans have to decide whether they really prefer energy profits, at the expense of future generations in the US and elsewhere.

Furthermore, time is running out. According to estimates, current climate policies virtually ensure that the increase in global temperatures is on pace for somewhere around 3.3 C. And that does not bode well for the future, or the hoped-for 'Asian Century.'

*Dr Dan Steinbock is the founder of Difference Group and has served at the India, China and America Institute (USA), Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (China) and EU Center (Singapore). For more, see <http://www.differencegroup.net/>*

p-2  
Weaker climate  
advisors, elevated  
Climate change —  
especially in PH

LONG-TERM CLIMATE RISK\*



\* Annual averages, 1998-2017: Climate Risk Index 2019, GermanWatch; Difference Group



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Manila Standard

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EDITORIAL

CARTOON

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# Nations agree milestone rulebook on climate pact

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floods, droughts and extreme weather made worse by climate change said the package agreed in the mining city of Katowice lacked the bold ambition to cut emissions the world needed.

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This would see richer countries giving money now to help deal with the effects of climate change many vulnerable states are already experiencing. **AFP**



# UN members agree on rules for emissions

**KATOWICE, Poland:** After two weeks of bruising negotiations, officials from almost 200 countries agreed Saturday (Sunday in Manila) on universal, transparent rules that will govern efforts to cut emissions and curb global warming.

The deal agreed upon at UN climate talks in Poland enables countries to put into action the principles in the 2015 Paris climate accord.

But to the frustration of environmental activists and some countries who were urging more ambitious climate goals, negotiators delayed decisions on two key issues until next year in an effort to get a deal on them.

"Through this package, you have made a thousand little steps forward together," said Michal Kurtyka, a senior Polish official chairing the talks.

He said while each individual country would likely find some parts of the agreement it didn't like, efforts had been made to balance the interests of all parties.

"We will all have to give in order to gain," Kurtyka said. "We will all have to be courageous to look into the future and make yet another

step for the sake of humanity."

The talks in Poland took place against a backdrop of growing concern among scientists that global warming on Earth is proceeding faster than governments are responding to it. Last month, a study found that global warming will worsen disasters such as the deadly California wildfires and the powerful hurricanes that have hit the United States this year.

And a recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, concluded that while it's possible to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century compared to pre-industrial times, this would require a dramatic overhaul of the global economy, including a shift away from fossil fuels.

Alarmed by efforts to include this in the final text of the meeting, the oil-exporting nations of the

US, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait blocked an endorsement of the IPCC report mid-way through this month's talks in the Polish city of Katowice. That prompted uproar from vulnerable countries like small island nations and environmental groups.

The final text at the UN talks omits a previous reference to specific reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and merely welcomes the "timely completion" of the IPCC report, not its conclusions.

Last-minute snags forced negotiators in Katowice to go into extra time, after Friday's scheduled end of the conference had passed without a deal.

One major sticking point was how to create a functioning market in carbon credits. Economists believe that an international trading system could be an effective way to drive down greenhouse gas emissions and raise large amounts of money for measures to curb global warming.

But Brazil wanted to keep the piles of carbon credits it had amassed under an old system that developed countries say wasn't

credible or transparent.

Among those that pushed back hardest was the United States, despite President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris climate accord and his promotion of coal as a source of energy.

"Overall, the US role here has been somewhat schizophrenic — pushing coal and dissing science on the one hand, but also working hard in the room for strong transparency rules," said Elliot Diring of the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, a Washington think tank.

When it came to closing potential loopholes that could allow countries to dodge their commitments to cut emissions, "the U.S. pushed harder than nearly anyone else for transparency rules that put all countries under the same system, and it's largely succeeded."

"Transparency is vital to US interests," added Nathaniel Keohane, a climate policy expert at the Environmental Defense Fund. He noted that breakthrough in the 2015 Paris talks happened only after the U.S. and China agreed on a common framework for transparency. **AP**



17 DEC 2013

DATE

## 200 nations adopt Paris climate treaty rulebook

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