

23 DEC 2013

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**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**



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## DENR commends 15 organizations for forestry best practices

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has paid tribute to 15 people's organizations (POs) that have employed the best practices in the area of livelihood and enterprise development while posting a significant increase in the forest cover within their respective areas.

These 15 organizations have successfully implemented the government's Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) program.

The 15 POs from upland and coastal communities across the country were given recognition during the 3rd CBFM Practitioners' Congress held at the Manila Hotel last Dec. 11.

These are Society's Awareness on Livelihood and Environmental Needs for Growth Inc. from Mankayan, Benguet; Caunayan Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte; Federation of Vista Hill, Kalongkong and Kakilingan Upland Farmers Inc., Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya; Calaanan-Digmala Upland Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Bongabon, Nueva Ecija; Kapitbisig Farmers Association Inc., Atimonan, Quezon; Macatumbalen Community-Based Forest and Coastal Management Association, San Vicente, Palawan; Mount Cadig Development Association Inc., Sta. Elena, Camarines

Norte; Katilingban sang Pumuluyo nga naga-Atipan sang Watershed sang Maasin, Iloilo; Lepantuhanong Hugpong sa Kalamboan, Algeria, Cebu; Naungan San Juan Mangrove Planters Association, Ormoc City, Leyte; Kahugpungan sa Gagmayng Mangingisda sa Bolong Batu; Siay, Zamboanga Sibugay; Imbayao Community-Based Forest Management Farmers Association, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon; CFP-Calapagan Marayag Farmers Association, Lupon, Davao Oriental; Limatong Dalumankom Bual Farmers Association, Pigcawayan, Cotabato; and San Isidro Upland Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative,

Santiago Agusan del Norte.

Forest Management Bureau director Nonito Tamayo said the congress is part of the FMB's efforts to further improve the implementation of the CBFM as participants will once again consult each other to update the program guidelines. FMB is an attached agency of the DENR.

"The lessons and experiences by the 15 POs will also be used to fine-tune the CBFM framework to be implemented in the next 25 years," he added.

The FMB has been organizing the congress every three years since 2012, primarily to identify the strengths and weaknesses in the implementation of the program on a nationwide scale.

It also seeks to address the peculiarities of each CBFM project at the community level, focusing on the underlying issues that enhance or constrain community participation.

This year's theme, "CBFM: Para sa Kalikasan at Kabuhayan," puts emphasis on the program's socioeconomic and environmental objectives, as well as the DENR's current advocacy campaign slogan "Tayo ang Kalikasan."

- Rhodina Villanueva



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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# Baguio City welcomes rehabilitation plan

By **ZALDY COMANDA**

**B**AGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan welcomed the possible rehabilitation of the summer capital but not a total shutdown, similar to what was implemented in world renowned Boracay Island.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns Benny Antiporda earlier said that Baguio City will be the next local government unit to undergo rehabilitation after Boracay, Palawan and Bohol.

“We welcome the help of the DENR if they can further augment what we have been doing with the EMB (Environmental Management Bureau) and the MGB (Mines and GeoSciences Bureau) in rehabilitating portions of the city that need rehabilitation,” Domogan said.

“But we do not like to generalize that Baguio will be like Boracay because Boracay’s case is entirely different and there is no need for the city to be closed in order to rehabilitate. Baguio is a landlocked area aside from

remaining as a gateway to other areas in the different parts of Northern Luzon,” he added.

He said the city has been addressing concerns on water and air pollution with projects and programs that have been in place for years now, most of which are in collaboration with the DENR - Cordillera.

Domogan cited the city’s requirement for households and establishments to have their own septic tanks.

He said regular inspections are conducted with the violators whose sewer lines are directly drained in canals are notified and penalized.

The city also sustains its Salaknib ti Waig river reclamation project in collaboration with the private sectors where regular conferences are held to monitor the quality of the water in the river tributaries in the city.

The city has been addressing air pollution concerns through the installation of an apparatus to regularly measure and monitor the air quality in various areas in the city also in tandem with the EMB.

Domogan also cited efforts to curb air pollution through the anti-smoke belching ordinance where a task force

remains active in monitoring and apprehending vehicles emitting excessive smoke.

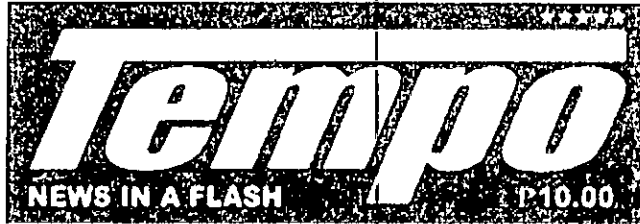
There were also the smoke-free and plastic-free ordinances being actively implemented.

On traffic woes, the city government in partnership with the city police has continuously been searching for solutions and even engaged the help of other local government units.

“Unfortunately this is not an easy task as there are no laws banning the entry of tourists and preventing people from buying vehicles and we cannot just widen our roads as our city is planned to be good for only 25,000 with the adjoining lots all titled and occupied,” the mayor said.



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# No need to close Baguio for rehabilitation – mayor

By ZALDY COMANDA

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan yesterday welcomed the rehabilitation of the country's summer capital, but put his foot down on the possibility of total closure similar to what was done in Boracay.

"We welcome the help of the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) if they can further augment what we have been doing with the EMB (Environmental Management Bureau) and the MGB (Mines and GeoSciences Bureau) in rehabilitating portions of the city that need rehabilitation," Domogan said.

"But we do not like is to generalize that Baguio will be like Boracay because Boracay's case is entirely different and there is no need for the city to be closed in order to rehabilitate. Baguio is a

landlocked area aside from serving as a gateway to other areas in the different parts of Northern Luzon," he added.

Domogan was reacting to the pronouncement made by DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns Benny Antiporda that Baguio will be the next local government unit to undergo rehabilitation after Boracay, Palawan and Bohol.

He said the city has been addressing concerns on water and air pollution with projects and programs that have been in place for years now, most of which are in collaboration with the DENR Cordillera.

The mayor cited the city's requirement for households and establishments to have their own septic tanks.

He said regular inspections are conducted with the violators notified and penalized.

The city also sustains its Salaknib ti Waig river reclamation project in collaboration with the private sectors where regular conferences are held to monitor the quality of the water in the river tributaries in the city.

With regards to air pollution, Baguio is one of the first cities to install an apparatus to regularly measure and monitor the air quality in various areas in the city also in tandem with the EMB.

Baguio is also one of the first few cities in the city to partner with Clean Air having been chosen as a pilot area for Clean Air Certification, an international recognition of "innovative and impactful, voluntary action towards better air quality" given by the Clean Cities Air Partnership Program through the CAA.

Domogan also cited efforts to curb air pollution through the anti-smoke belching ordinance

where a task force remains active in monitoring and apprehending vehicles emitting excessive smoke. There were also the smoke-free and plastic-free ordinances being actively implemented.

To address the traffic problems, the city government in partnership with the city police has continuously been searching for solutions and even engaged the help of other local government units.

"Unfortunately this is not an easy task as there are no laws banning the entry of tourists and preventing people from buying vehicles and we cannot just widen our roads as our city is planned to be good for only 25,000 with the adjoining lots all titled and occupied," the mayor said.

He said apart from constant traffic route and campaign readjustments, one solution being pursued is the improvement of alternate roads in the outskirts to decongest the central business district.



## Baguio, 'wag isara sa turista -- Domogan

**BAGUIO CITY**-Nanawagan kahapon sa pamahalaan ang local government ng Baguio City na huwag isara sa mga turista ang summer capital ng bansa, kahit isailalim pa ito sa rehabilitasyon.

Ayon kay City Mayor Mauricio Domogan, pabor ito sa isinusulong ng gobyerno na rehabilitation upang manumbalik ang dating anyo nito basta hindi ito isailalim sa total closure.

Tinukoy ng alkalde ang naganap na rehabilitasyon ng Boracay Island na anim na buwan na isinara sa publiko na nagresulta sa pagkalugi ng mga negosyo sa isla.

Inilabas ng opisyal ang reaksyon bilang tugon sa pahayag ni

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns Benny Antiporda, isusunod na nilang ire-rehab ang Baguio City, pagkatapos ng Boracay, Palawan at Bohol.

"We welcome the help of the DENR if they can further augment what we have been doing with the EMB (Environmental Management Bureau) and the MGB (Mines and GeoSciences Bureau) in rehabilitating portions of the city that need rehabilitation. But we do not like is to generalize that Baguio will be like Boracay because Boracay's

case is entirely different and there is no need for the city to be closed in order to rehabilitate. Baguio is a landlocked area aside from serving as a gateway to other areas in the different parts of Northern Luzon," aniya.

Aniya, matagal na silang gumagawa ng paraan upang masolusyunan ang problema sa polusyon sa tubig at hangin sa

pamamagitan ng kanilang mga proyekto at programa, katulong ang DENR Cordillera.

Inobliga na rin aniya nila ang mga residente at mga business establishment na maglagay ng kani-kanilang septic tank bilang bahagi ng kanilang programa.

**Rizaldy Comanda**



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**  
**ON DENR PLAN FOR MANILA BAY**

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# CLEANUP DRIVES POINTLESS SANS WATER TREATMENT—ATIENZA

By Jerome Aning  
 @JeromeAningINQ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) plan to rehabilitate Manila Bay would be pointless in the absence of the major waste water treatment plants promised by Metro Manila's two water concessionaires, according to a House member and former city mayor of Manila.

"If the DENR will say that they will try their best to have those plants in the next three years, I would believe them. Otherwise, they are just playing a trick on the people," Buhay Party-list Rep. Lito Atienza, senior deputy minority leader, said in a radio interview.

Atienza, who also earlier served as DENR secretary, described as "minor issues" the proposals of incumbent Secretary Frank Cimatú to relocate informal settlers along Manila Bay and launch coastal cleanups and anti-water pollution drives.

The congressman said the DENR should instead pressure Maynilad Water Inc. and Manila Water Services Inc. to comply with their 30-year-old concession contract that calls for the construction of major waste water treatment plants in Metro Manila.

"Maynilad and Manila Water should finally provide waste water treatment facilities so that the water coming from our toilets,

what we call household waste water, should first be processed before they flow into the sea. If not, the killing of Manila Bay will continue. If we continue to use it as a giant sewer, then we will not solve the problem," Atienza said.

Atienza said the two concessionaires did set up several "small" waste water treatment plants but added that these were not the ones required in the contracts. "We need a big waste water treatment plant that will clean our waste water in its entirety," he added.

## 'What will you smell?'

For the lawmaker, the failure of the concessionaires to fulfill their obligations is evident near the Manila Yacht Club where people can walk along the seawall to enjoy Manila Bay's world-famous sunset.

"Walk on the seawall, what will you smell? Sewer. The air there smells like a sewer," he said.

Cimatú earlier said the DENR intended to duplicate the government rehabilitation strategy for the resort island of Boracay to reduce Manila Bay's coliform concentration to a safe level and make the water fit again for swimming, skin diving and other forms of recreation.

Manila Bay pollution, he said, is caused by domestic sewage, toxic industrial effluents from factories and shipping operations, and leachate from garbage dumps, among others. INQ



GOOD FOR PHOTO-OP BUT... Volunteers are often called to pick up trash washing up on the Manila Bay coastline, but it will take much more than that to curb decades of water pollution.

—MARIANNE BERMUDEZ



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# The Manila Times

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# Power firm taps LGUs for watershed project

BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

**A** RENEWABLE energy provider has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with four local government units in the province of Ifugao to support integrated watershed management.

With the MoU, SN Aboitiz Power-Magat (SNAP-Magat) is set to support watershed management projects in the municipalities of Banaue, Hingyon, Mayoyao and Lagawe for the protection and restoration of the Upper Magat Watershed through the "Partnerships in Uplifting Upland Natural Resources, Livelihoods and Assets (PUNLA)" program.

Lawyer Mike Hosillos, SNAP vice president and chief corporate services officer, said SNAP-Magat would extend financial assistance to projects that focus on the

recommendations of the Upper Magat Watershed Management Study, and are harmonized with local resource management plans, one of which is the Ifugao Rice Terraces Master Plan (IRTMP).

He said PUNLA prioritizes watershed management programs such as enrichment planting activities, which entails diversifying the types of trees in the target area based on endemic species identified for that locality.

"Our other priorities include rice terraces repair and restoration programs

such as stonewalling and improving the productivity of abandoned rice terraces. Similarly, livelihood and enterprise development projects will also be considered for funding through PUNLA," Hosillos said.

He said they know they cannot do it alone but SNAP-Magat is committed to doing their part for environmental sustainability.

"Through initiatives like PUNLA, we want to plant the seeds that will enable not just SNAP, but also our partner communities, to reap the benefits of well-managed watersheds in the future," Hosillos added.

SNAP-Magat owns and operates the 360-380 megawatts Magat Hydroelectric Power Plant, one of the largest hydro facilities in Luzon.

It is a joint venture between SN Power of Norway and Aboitiz Power and is part of the SNAP Group, a leading provider and developer of renewable energy in the Philippines.



■ SNAP-Magat President and Chief Executive Officer Joseph Yu (front row, center) leads the signing of the agreement for the Partnerships in Uplifting Upland Natural Resources, Livelihoods and Assets Program with (front row, left to right) Lagawe Officer-in-Charge Vice Mayor Vilma Alcayna, Mayoyao Vice Mayor Jimmy Padchanan Jr., Hingyon Mayor Geraldo Luglug, and Banaue Mayor Jerry Dalipog in a ceremony recently held in Santiago, Isabela.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Phl wraps up Coral Triangle chairmanship

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

The Philippines is ending its two-year chairmanship of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), an environment official said.

"Moving forward, we must shift our focus on actions that can really deliver higher level of outcomes such as poverty reduction and improved food security," Undersecretary Jonas Leones of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said in his opening remarks during the recent 14th CTI-CFF Senior Officials Meeting in Makati City.

Leones is chairperson of the CTI-CFF Committee of Senior Officials.

The two-day meeting in mid-December was one of the culminating activities for the Philippine chairmanship of CTI-CFF, a multilateral partnership of six countries working together to sustain extraordinary marine and coastal resources by addressing crucial issues such as food security, climate change and marine biodiversity.

Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and the Philippines are collectively known as Coral Triangle 6 or CT6.

Leones said the chairmanship of the Philippines for the past two years was not easy because some difficult challenges faced the organization.

The region, he said, also suffered from natural disasters that cost lives and economic losses among CT6 nations, further aggravating an already difficult sector to manage.

"Our coastal communities which have always relied on the richness of our seas remain highly vulnerable to an ever changing environment, which is why there is a need to develop programs and initiatives that are more adaptive and sustainable," Leones said.

The official, however, believed the region has moved on from "difficult times" and was now "eager

to keep on working to achieve our common goals."

But before the CT6 adopts a new regional plan of action, Leones said working groups, such as coordination mechanism, monitoring and evaluation, must gain ground.

He said this is to make sure "everything is in place and all we have to do is to implement what will be decided upon by the CTI-CFF."

Leones also shared some of the efforts done by the Philippines to protect its coastal and marine resources, including its "bold and decisive moves" in connection with the world-famous Boracay

Island.

He said the six-month closure of Boracay served as an eye opener for local government units, coastal communities and national agencies on the effects of unsustainable tourism practices.

"Moreover, this initiative has rippled through all of our provinces and municipalities, triggering an increased environmental consciousness to those living along the country's coastline," Leones added.

He said the country also expanded the coverage of the National Integrated Protected Area System or NIPAS, which established and reinforced additional terrestrial and coastal protected areas spread across the country.

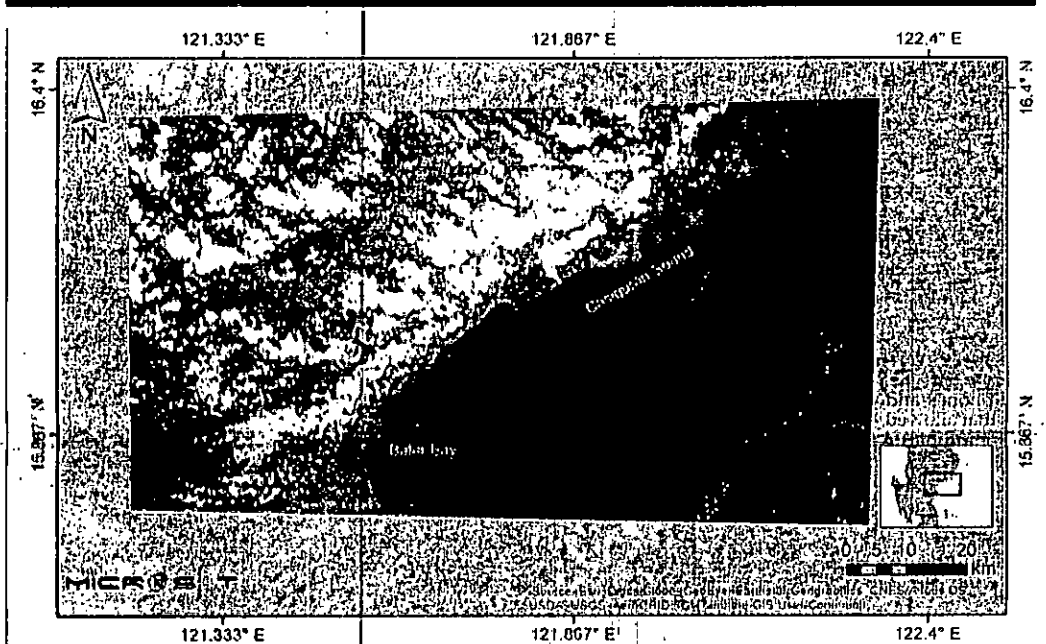
Leones also cited the signing of Presidential Proclamation 489 declaring a portion of the Philippine

Rise, more commonly known as Benham Rise, as a resource reserve.

The underwater region located off Luzon was found to harbor significantly large contiguous coral reefs in pristine condition, prompting the Convention of Biological Diversity to declare it as an "ecologically and biologically significant area."

Leones said the Boracay rehabilitation, expansion of NIPAS coverage, protection of Philippine Rise and other coastal and marine conservation and protection activities signify the country's continued commitment to international agreements, such as the CTI-CFF.

"Being an archipelagic country, we cannot emphasize further how important it is for our government to prioritize our seas," Leones said, giving assurance that the Philippines "shall give its utmost... with regard to preserving our natural resources."



The first images captured by Diwata-2, one of which shows the coast of Baler, were released earlier this month by the PHL-Microsat program.





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# The Manila Times

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## PH seeks climate action for Coral Triangle

THE Philippines sees the need for more international climate action that will better protect the 6-million-square kilometer Coral Triangle, the marine area experts cited as center of marine biodiversity on Earth.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu raised the urgency for elevating such need before the international community, noting climate change is already adversely affecting the Coral Triangle.

"Climate change is upon us," he said on December 14 in Makati City at the 7th Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) ministerial meeting, which looked into measures for better protecting the area.

The Coral Triangle refers to a roughly triangular area in the tropical marine waters of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste.

"Unprecedented rates" of drought, excessive rainfall and weather, coral bleaching and ocean acidification are among climate change impacts the Coral Triangle already experienced in the past 10 years, Cimatu said.

He said such impacts hampered lives of people in the Coral Triangle, particularly those living in this area's coastal communities. Climate change also "devastatingly affected" economies of countries, he added.

"In future international conferences, our experiences must be heard, and stories told loud and clear," Cimatu said.

Being able to relay such information is essential in further mobilizing international climate action that will benefit the Coral Triangle, he said.

"We're part of the bigger solution," he told CTI-CFF members Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and the Philippines that are the six countries in the Coral Triangle (CT6).

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Convention on Biological Diversity are among possible global platforms for airing CTI-CFF's concerns on climate change and the Coral Triangle, Cimatu said.

"As a regional cooperation and partnership initiative, CT6 must aim to be heard in these global platforms and should put forward our agenda to serve as reference point in crafting international frameworks in environmental conservation," he said.

Among actions that will benefit the Coral Triangle are lessening emission of climate change-driving greenhouse gases and reducing environmental footprint of fishing and other high-impact activities.

### Also critical for food security

Lying along the equator at the confluence of Western Pacific and Indian oceans, CTI-CFF said Coral Triangle hosts more than the 600 different species of reef-building corals.

CTI-CFF is CT6's multilateral partnership formed in 2009 to pro-

tect marine and coastal resources of Coral Triangle by addressing food security concerns, climate change, marine biodiversity threats and other issues hounding this area.

"CT6 shall be the catalyst so that one day, nations will come to an understanding on how important prioritizing the environment is above anything else," said Cimatu.

According to World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Coral Triangle hosts about 76 percent of the Earth's coral species, six of the world's seven marine turtle species, and at least 2,228 reef fish species.

"Resources from the area directly sustain more than 120 million people living here," it also said.

Over-fishing, destructive fishing, unsustainable tourism, impacts of urbanization and climate change are fast eroding the Coral Triangle's resource base, however, WWF warned.

CTI-CFF also described Coral Triangle's coral reefs as among the world's most threatened with about 95 percent of these ecosystems at risk from over-fishing, destructive fishing, land-based pollution and coastal development.

"A lot must be done — we want nothing less for our future generations," Cimatu said.

He urged CTI-CFF member-countries to sustain collaboration with each other and partners on protecting Coral Triangle, particularly amidst climate change and its impacts.

"We must face its impacts head-on, not with desperation but with a sense of hope and purpose," he added. **PNA**



**EDITORIAL**

A member of the  
**ppj Philippine Press Institute**  
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

## Cleaning the lake

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is at the head of government efforts to clean important tourist attractions such as Boracay, Bohol, and Palawan.

While they are at it, it would be better if the DENR and the local government units concerned also launch a serious and massive cleanup of Manila Bay and Laguna de Bay, the two most prominent bodies of water in Metro Manila and Luzon, which have been suffering from pollution and environmental degradation for so long.

**'Atienza said the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) has not delivered on the President's order and commitment to liberate the lake from the structures and return it to the small fisherfolk who are among the poorest sectors.'**

Buhay Party-list Rep. Lito Atienza, a former secretary of DENR, reiterated the need for cleaning up Manila Bay and Laguna Lake at the Kapihan sa Maynila Bay in Cafe Adriatico yesterday.

Congressman Atienza said several presidents before President Rody Duterte tried but failed to remove the fish pens in Laguna Lake. The reason is there are very important people, officials from the military, the LGUs and similar institutions, who own the fishpens and fish cages.

Atienza noted that in Duterte's first State of the Nation Address (SONA), he promised to return Laguna Lake to small fishermen, and that he would supervise the dismantling of the fish pens that pollute the lake and hinder the access of the fisherfolk to the middle part of the lake. Duterte then committed to clearing the lake of fish pens in six months, or until December, 2016.

This did not happen, and so Congressman Atienza and the fishermen of Laguna and Rizal waited for the second SONA, during which President Duterte did not even mention Laguna Lake.

Atienza said the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) has not delivered on the President's order and commitment to liberate the lake from the structures and return it to the small fisherfolk who are among the poorest sectors.

Some people are making money from the bounties that the lake contains, he said.

President Duterte has the rare opportunity to clean up Laguna Lake, remove the fish pens, and improve the livelihood of small fisherfolk.



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## REHAB SA MANILA BAY VILLAR KINILALA NG DENR

**PINARANGALAN** ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga gawain ni Senadora Cynthia Villar gaya ng paglilinis at rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay sa ika-10 taong anibersaryo ng mandamus na nag-utos sa 13 government agencies na pangunahan ang rehabilitasyon nito.

Si Villar, chairperson Commission on Environment and Natural Resources, ay kinilala sa kanyang "unwavering support and relentless effort in championing the Manila Bay Rehabilitation cause."

Nilagdaan ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu ang plaque na iniabot ni DENR Usec. Sherwin Rigor sa seremonyang sinaksihan ng mga kinatawan sa tinatawag na "mandamus agencies" at DENR officials.

"Manila Bay is one big toilet kaya hindi malinis-linis," salin ni Villar matapos tanggapin ang award.

Biniyang diin ni Villar na ang kawalan ng waste water treatment facilities ang dahilan ng mataas na coliform content ng tubig ng Manila Bay.

Samantala, pinuri ni Villar si Cimatu sa pahayag nito na sisimulan sa 2019 ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Villar, maaaring magsilbing modelo sa paglilinis sa naturang lugar ang kanyang dalawang proyekto sa Manila Bay.

Ang isa rito ay ang Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park kung saan buwanang paglilinis at pagtatanim ng puno rito.

Kanya ring itinutulak na maisabatas ang panukalang nagdedeklara sa Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park na "protected area" at humahadlang sa anumang planong reklamasyon dito.

Ang isa pang proyekto, ani Villar, ay ang Baseco Compound sa Maynila.

Sa parlamentang gawain ng Villar Social Institute for Poverty Alleviation and Governance sa pakikipag-partner sa DOH, naglagay ng mga palikuran sa lugar para sa mga residente. Ito ay sa pakikipag-partner sa DA at Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission kung saan nagtayo rin ng livelihood projects gaya ng aquaculture at urban gardening.

Sa ilalim ng G.R. No.

171947-48, inatasan ng Corte Suprema noong Disyembre 18, 2008, ang 13 government agencies— DENR, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Bureau of Soil and Water Management, Department of Education, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Budget and Management, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Local Water Utilities Administration, Metro Manila Development Authority, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, at Philippine Ports Authority para linisin, ayusin at papanatilihin ang Manila Bay at linisin ang tubig nito para mapaglanguyan, para magamit sa skin diving at iba pang uri ng contact recreation.

Kinilala ni Villar ang mga gawain ng environmental lawyer at Magsaysay awardee na si Antonio Oposa sa pagsasampa ng kaso na naging daan sa SC landmark decision.

**VICKY CERVALES**



## UN climate report cites Phl

By JANVIC MATEO

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has cited the Philippines in its latest report on climate adaptation efforts instituted by different countries.

The report, released in time with the climate change conference in Poland, said the Philippines has put in place comprehensive adaptation legislation, including the law that established the Climate Change Commission to lead the development of policy and to coordinate, monitor and evaluate climate response.

It also cited the creation of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, which sought to enhance coordination and coherence across government agencies with key roles in adaptation and mitigation.

"The 2010 National Framework Strategy on Climate Change provided a road-map for addressing climate change and led to the 2011 National Climate Change Action Plan, which seeks to implement short-, medium- and long-term actions in seven thematic areas, among them food security, water sufficiency and human security," it said.

"The ultimate goal is to build the adaptive capacities of women and men in their communities and increase the resilience of vulnerable sectors and natural ecosystems to climate change," it added.

While the action plan does not include quantified targets, UNEP said it includes expected outputs, outcomes and indicators.

"To ensure that adaptation and disaster risk reduction are mainstreamed and integrated into the country's plans and programs at all levels, the Philippines plans to roll out science-based climate/disaster risk and vulnerability assessment processes as the basis for mainstreaming climate and disaster risk reduction," it added.

The Philippines is among four countries whose adaptation programs were highlighted in the report. The others were Brazil, Burkina Faso and the Netherlands.

Climate Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman said the inclusion of Philippine policies in the report shows that the country is on the right track in addressing climate change issues.

"We take this as further encouragement that we are on the right track to saving more lives and livelihoods and building further resilience within our communities, which is what enabling adaptation really means for a climate-vulnerable developing country like ours," he said.

"Through a whole-of-nation approach, the Philippines is constantly exploring new ways, guided by science and the practical knowledge of our communities, to find solutions towards ensuring that our people can truly be able to survive and thrive," he added.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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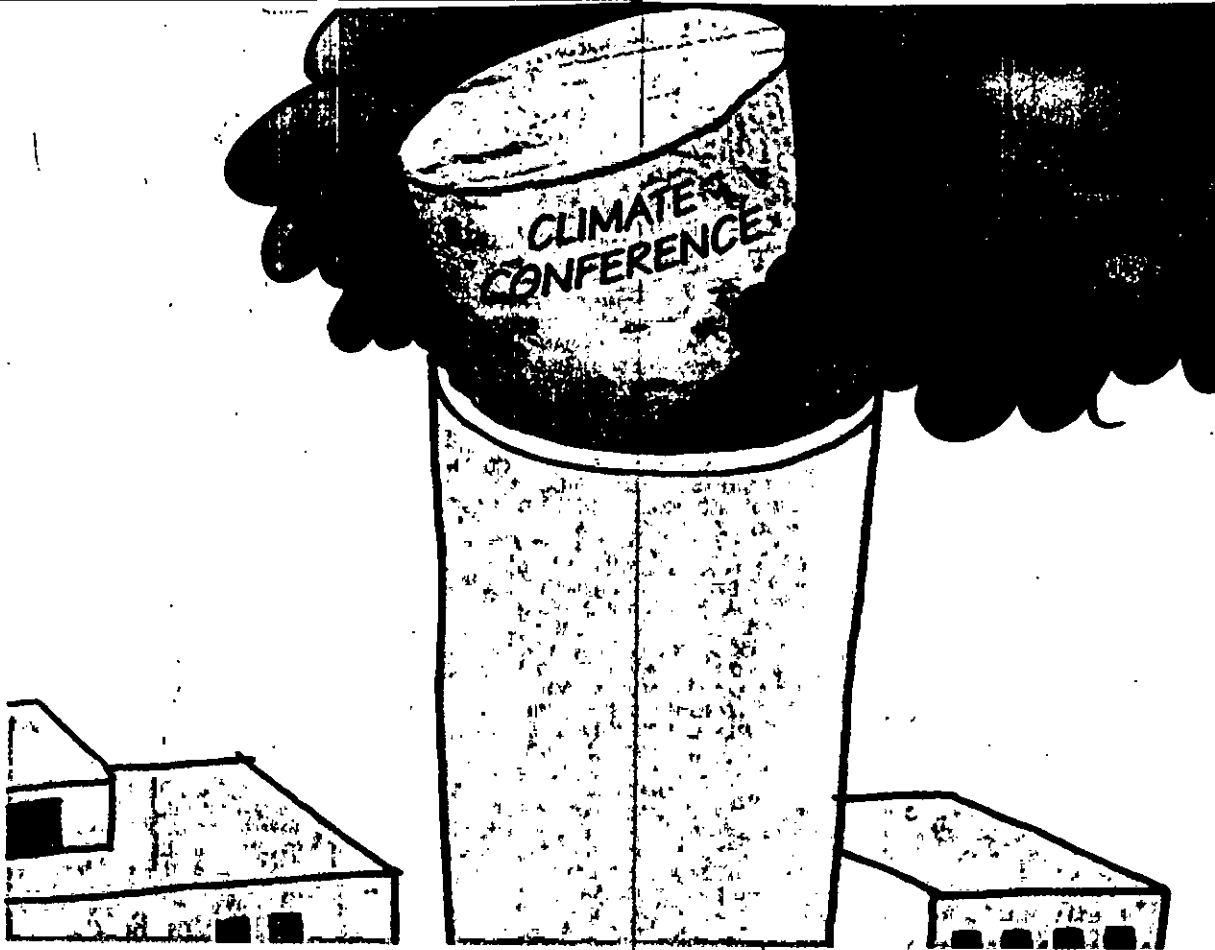
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## Weaker final statement ends climate conference

**F**OR a while, it was feared that the world climate change conference in Katowice, Poland, would end in total disagreement as four nations – the United States, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait – refused to sign the original closing statement “welcoming” a report of a United Nations-backed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The IPCC scientists warned of catastrophic events that could happen if urgent and radical steps are not taken to slash carbon emissions by 2030. The proposed final statement “welcomed” this report, but the four nations, all major producers of oil and other fossil-fuels used in generating power around the world, would only agree to simply “note” it.

They finally agreed on a statement expressing gratitude to the scientists who prepared the report and invited countries to use the findings from their study. The issue of trading of emission allowances in “carbon markets” aimed at encouraging countries and companies to limit their carbon emissions was put off for another year.

But the individual countries attending the conference reiterated their commitment to carry out their nationally determined efforts to cut down on their carbon emissions as their contributions to the overall goal of keeping global warming below 1.5

degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels. They agreed to provide information on their progress in carrying out these nationally determined contributions, which they had submitted at the Paris conference three years ago.

This year's Katowice agreement also spelled out guidelines for the establishment of new finance targets to help developing countries suffering the most from climate change. The Philippines is among the island nations most affected by the rising sea levels and increasingly fierce storms arising from a warmer Pacific Ocean.

The Katowice conference was supposed to deliver on the goals of the 2015 Paris Conference on Climate Change. The various nations did report individual programs which Michal Kurtyka of Poland, president of this year's conference, lauded as “a thousand little steps forward together.” He said at the close of the conference that “All nations can leave Katowice with a sense of pride, knowing that their efforts have paid off.”

But so much more could have been achieved if the four nations questioning the scientists' report had joined the rest of the world in a general planet-wide agreement to hold back the many practices around the world that are raising world temperatures, melting glaciers and raising ocean levels, and generating fiercer typhoons and hurricanes.



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## Extreme weather events 'virtually impossible' without climate change

**E**XTRME weather events such as hurricanes, floods and droughts occur naturally, and would continue to do so even in the absence of climate change. The questions that the science of climate event attribution asks are: "Did the presence of climate change make a specific event more or less likely, or more or less intense? If so, by how much?"

These questions were answered once again in the new research report titled "Explaining Extreme Events in 2017 from a Climate Perspective," published in the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society (BAMS)*, when it said that the droughts in East Africa in 2017, floods in Bangladesh, China and South America, and the heat waves in China and the Mediterranean were "virtually impossible without human-caused climate change."

### Civilization out of sync with changing climate

The annual report presents 17 peer-reviewed analyses of extreme weather across six continents and

two oceans during 2017. It features the research of 120 scientists from 10 countries, looking at both historical observations and model simulations to determine whether and by how much climate change may have influenced particular extreme events.

Jeff Rosenfeld, editor in chief of *BAMS*, said: "These attribution studies are telling us that a warming Earth is continuing to send us new and more extreme weather events every year. The message of this science is that our civilization is increasingly out of sync with our changing climate."

*BAMS* Special Editor Martin Hoerling, a research meteorologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said that while the events studied in this issue spanned six continents and a calendar year, what became clear is they are intimately connected.

"These studies confirm predictions of the 1990 First IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report, which foresaw that radical departures from 20th century weather and climate would be happening now," Hoerling said.



ALL ABOUT CHOICES

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"Scientific evidence supports increasing confidence that human activity is driving a variety of extreme events now. These are having large economic impacts across the United States and around the world."

Here are some findings from the research on 2017's extreme weather published in the issue.

### Heat

Climate change had made the chances of heat waves in the Euro-Mediterranean region that are at least as hot as 2017's three times more likely than they were in 1950. The chance of such a heat wave recurring is now 10 percent in any given year.

Heat waves like the record-breaking 2017 event in central and eastern China were once rare. They are now one-in-five-



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year events due to climate change.

## Drought

Climate change made the 2017 Northern Great Plains drought 1.5 times more likely by shifting the balance between precipitation and evapotranspiration of soil moisture.

## Flooding

Extreme, six-day pre-monsoon rainfall that inundated northeast Bangladesh was made up to 100 percent more likely by climate change.

Climate change had made chances of the extreme rain that collapsed thousands of houses in southeastern China in June 2017 twice as likely.

Peru's flooding rains of March 2017 were influenced by a natural cycle of warm coastal waters, but human-caused climate change on top of that made such extremes at least 1.5 times more likely.

## Ocean-driven events

Scientists found that the record sea surface temperatures in the

Tasman Sea in 2017 and 2018 were virtually impossible without global warming.

Extremely warm sea surface temperatures off the coast of Africa doubled the probability of 2017's East Africa drought, which left more than 6 million people in Somalia facing food shortages. An analysis found the extreme ocean warmth could not have occurred in a pre-industrial climate.

Record-low Arctic sea ice due to climate change influenced record-breaking precipitation deficits across a large part of western Europe in December 2016.

Oceanic events — from unusual hot spots to sea-ice melt — are among the cases studied this year. The oceans participate in global warming, and there's ample reason to believe that the reservoir of heat in the ocean will be a significant driver of extreme events on land. The extreme weather events studied in the seven annual issues of the report were selected by researchers and do not represent a comprehensive analysis of events during that span. About 70 percent of the 146 research

findings published in this series identified a substantial link between an extreme event and climate change; about 30 percent did not.

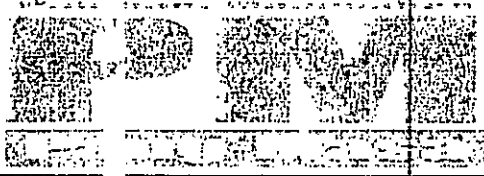
"A decade ago, we were focused on continental-scale, months-long extremes," Rosenfeld said. "Now researchers are often going after more local risks like heat waves, fire danger and floods on scales of a few days, for pinpointed areas of extreme impacts. In barely a decade, the research focus has evolved enough to address a wider scope of societal challenges."

The *BAMS* research report may not include an exhaustive list of last year's extreme events but other scientists have published multiple attribution studies of other events this year. These add to a steadily growing body of literature, one that's been building for over a decade, linking climate change to individual extreme weather events.

Science clearly points to the influence of climate change in real time.

Let us celebrate the birth of Christ with joy and happiness in our hearts. Advanced Merry Christmas to everyone!

p-2 ... Extreme weather events 'virtually impossible' without climate change.



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**Editorial**

# Bagsik ng air pollution

**K**AHAPON ng umaga, makulimlim sa Metro Manila. Sumikat-dili ang araw. Kapausip-pansin ang usok na humaharag sa sumisikat na araw. Iyon pala ang lahitan kaya ayaw tumuluy-tuloy ang sikat ng araw. Smoke at fog (smog) ang bumabalot sa kapaligiran. Ito in ang nalalanghap ng mamamayan sa MM. Kapag hindi napigilan ang smog, malaki ang magiging problema ng mamamayan sa kanilang kalusugan.

Sinabi minsan ng sikat na cardiologist na si Dr. Jorge Sison, face masks na ang kailangan ng mga taga-Metro Manila dahil sa malubhang air pollution. Si Dr. Sison ay pinuno ng Cardiology ng Medical Center Manila. Ayon kay Sison, grabe ang pollution sa EDSA, Taft Avenue, Quezon Avenue at C5 dahil dito nagdaraan ang taramihan sa mga sasakyan lalo na ang mga Jeepney.

Hindi na ligtas tirahan ang Metro Manila kung ang nagbabatayn ang suhestiyon ni Dr. Sison na kailangan ang mihg-face masks ang mamamayan. Para sabihing nag-face masks, masyado nang grabe ang kalagayan



ng hangin at kailangang gumawa ng aksiyon ang pamahalaan ukol dito. Unang dapat kumilos ay ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sapagkat sila ang may kargo para mapangalagaan ang kalikasan at kapaligiran. Sila ang may responsibilidad dito.

Noong nakaraang taon, nagkaroon ng ranking sa 230 siyudad sa buong mundo na gustong tirahan o puntahan ng mga dayuhan. Nasa ika-136 na puwesto ang Metro Manila. Isa sa mga dahilan kung bakit malayo ang puwesto ng Metro Manila ay dahil sa grabeng air pollution. Mas gusto ng mga dayuhan na puntahan ang mga lugar na malinis ang hangin. Pinakamarami ang gustong manirahan sa Vienna, Austria at sa Singapore.

Isa sa maaaring gawin ng DENR ay ang pagpapaligtas sa anti-smoke belching campaign. Suportahan nita ang pag-phase out sa mga lumang sasakyan na sapagkat ang mga ito ang naghubuga ng 80 porsiyento ng nakalalasang usok. Ipatupad ang nakasaad sa Clean Air Act of 1999 na bawal ang paggamit ng incinerators at pagsusunog na lumilikha ng usok. Ayon sa Department of Health (DOH) ang grabeng pollution ay nagdudulot nang maraming sakit: pulmonya, bronchitis, asthma, istrok at atake sa puso.

Malaking hamon kay DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu ang pollution sa Metro Manila. Kung nalinis ang Boracay, dapat bigyang pansin ang maruming hangin sa Metro Manila. Maraming magkakasakit sa hinaharap.





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## An attainable objective

After cleaning up Boracay, the government is training its sights on Manila Bay. It's tempting to scoff at this ambitious objective. The bay is where the country's largest and busiest seaport is located. Around the bay are numerous informal settlements where people treat the sea as their garbage dump and sewerage system.

The charcoal-making community described by author Dan Brown in his novel "Inferno" as the "gates of Hell" is located in Manila's port district. Industrial waste is also dumped into the bay from factories, including toxic waste from fireworks plants in Bulacan. Garbage and effluvia from polluted creeks also end up in the bay.

Cleaning up the bay, however, isn't as quixotic as it seems. Environmental advocates, backed by political and private sector support, have succeeded in cleaning up the Pasig River. Despite winning international recognition, the river cleanup is far from finished. But it shows that rehabilitating polluted waters is possible.

Several countries have also shown that it is possible to revive heavily polluted bodies of water. While funding is important in

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this effort, the most critical component for success is sustained public cooperation.

Private companies must be persuaded that investments in environment-friendly technology, equipment and materials, although initially expensive, can prove cost-effective in the long run. Residential communities must see the advantages of a clean bay to their health, quality of life and — for fishing villages — their livelihoods.

Reviving the bay should also include putting a stop to reclamation projects for commercial and other purposes. The bay needs to breathe if it is to be revived, and this becomes more difficult if it keeps getting artificially smaller. Fishponds must be limited. The Las Piñas-Paranaque Critical Habitat and Eco-Tourism Area, which has been officially declared as a protected wetland, must be nurtured and even expanded.

The presence of that protected wetland right inside Metro Manila should encourage proponents of the bay cleanup that their campaign can achieve some measure of success. As the Pasig River revival has shown, the objective is best attained if everyone is on board.



## Accredited Boracay rooms register past 10,000 mark

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

The number of Boracay hotel rooms that have been cleared to operate has breached the 10,000 mark, an updated list by the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) showed.

Based on the latest Boracay Bulletin, six more hotels have complied with the requirements of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Tourism (DOT).

This brings the number of accredited Boracay accommodation establishments to 285 with total of 10,076 rooms.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat earlier said the BIATF would continue to accredit compliant accommodation establishments.

"More rooms will be available as we continue with Phase 2 and 3 of the Boracay rehabilitation. We are making sure the task force's requirements are complied with 100 percent," Puyat said.

The task force urged the public to avoid booking with establishments that have no permits from the DOT, DENR and DILG.

Before the island's closure in April, Boracay had roughly 15,000 to 16,000 available rooms.

Puyat said they are not setting a limit on the number of



Puyat

accredited accommodation establishments.

The government is limiting the number of tourists in Boracay to ensure the sustainability of the island, which was reopened in October after it was closed for rehabilitation

for six months.

A study commissioned by the DENR showed that Boracay's carrying capacity is only 55,757 people per day, including its residents. Only 19,215 tourists are allowed to be on the island at a certain time, with 6,405 tourists allowed to enter the island per day.

Last week, Puyat said she is not confident of hitting the 7.4 million foreign arrivals target this year mainly due to the closure of Boracay.

She added that having a carrying capacity would definitely affect arrivals figures since it would be unlike before when an unlimited amount of tourists could enter the island at a given time.



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**PLANTING FOR OUR FUTURE** Unisys Philippines employees planted 100 seedlings of native trees along the slopes of Mount Banahaw and San Cristobal in Laguna as part of its, 'Planting For Our Future' program. The tree planting activity was conducted under Haribon Foundation's Forest For Life movement. To adopt a seedling, plot or hectare, call 421-1209. PHOTO BY UNISYS