

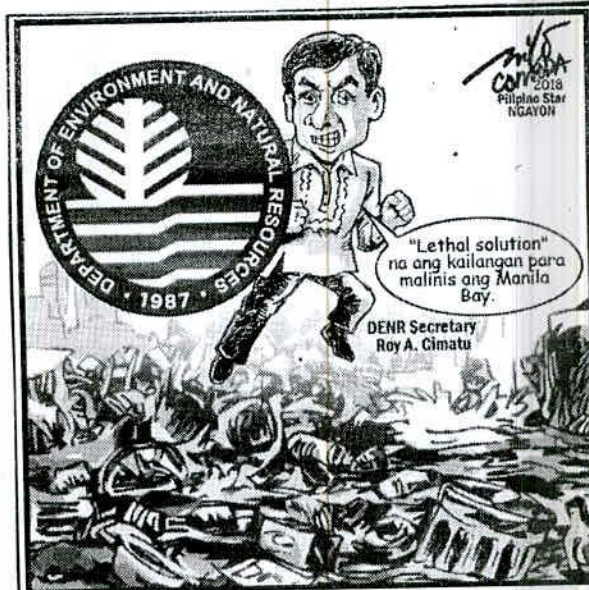
DATE : 22 DEC 2010

DAY : Saturday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Editorial

Napabayaan ang Manila Bay

HINDI nasunod ang utos ng Supreme Court noong 2008 na inatasan ang mga ahensiya ng gobyerno sa pangunguna ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na linisin, i-rehabilitate at ipreserba ang Manila Bay upang magamit na paliguan at iba pang uri ng recreation ng mamamayan. Pero lumipas ang 10 taon at hindi nasunod ang utos ng SC. Walang paglilinis na nagawa sa Manila Bay at nagmistula na ngayong basurahan. Kung makikita ang mga basurang naglutangan sa break water ng Manila Bay, maaaring bumaliktad ang sikmura ng sinuman. Kakadiri ang mga basura sapagkat umalingasaw sa baho.

Noong nakaraang linggo, sinabi ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu na ang mga basurang nasa Manila Bay ay nagmumula sa mga informal settlers na nasa baybayin at mga nasa tabing estero at ilog. Tapon nang tapon ang mga ito ng basura sa dagat at mga estero. Maski ang kanilang dumi ay siyut nang siyut sa dagat. Naging malaking poso-negro ang Manila Bay kaya naman umaalingasaw sa baho. Noong Huwebes, muling nagsalita si Cimatu ukol sa mga nakadidiring basura sa Manila Bay. At nangako siya na pangungunahan ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay. Susundin niya ang iniaatas ng SC na dapat mapreserba ang Manila Bay. Ayon kay Cimatu, "lethal solution" ang ipatutupad niya para mailigtas ang Manila Bay sa lalo pang pagkasira.

Iaaplay umano niya ang ginawa sa Boracay na anim na buwan na isinara at ni-rehabilitate dahil sa sobrang dumi. Sa karumihan, tinawag ni President Duterte na "cesspool" ang Boracay. Sa kasalukuyan, mainis na mainis na ang Boracay. Nawala na ang mga pasaway na resort at restaurant owners na ginawang basurahan ang karagatan ng Boracay.

Linisin ni Cimatu ang Manila Bay. Pero bago nagawa ito, kailangan munang ma-relocate ang squatters. Kapag na-relocate, saka lamang nare-rehabilitate. Simulan na ang paglilinis sa Manila Bay.



Manila Bay's coliform level now alarming — DENR

WATERS at the Manila Bay has already reached to a high level of 330 million most probable (mmp) number of coliform despite a mandamus issued by the Supreme Court 10 years ago directing 13 government agencies including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to rehabilitate the bay.

This was disclosed by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu during a press conference in which he described the findings as an "alarming level" and vowed to reduce this to an ideal level of less 100mmp of coliform.

Cimatu expressed optimism that they can duplicate the success of the Boracay rehabilitation in their plans of massive rehabilitation of Manila Bay through a strong political will.

"I accept the challenge in rehabilitating the Manila Bay. This is really our mandate and nobody else will do it," Cimatu stressed. "I am very optimistic that it will be done. In fact, we are already lining up the courses of action to save Manila Bay."

He also disclosed that the main reason in the massive increase of coliform level in the Manila Bay are the four esteros in Manila and those near the Manila Yatch Club in Roxas Boulevard.

Cimatu said added that local government units concerned must strictly comply with their mandate of not allowing informal settlers to live near the esteros.

"Dapat matigil na ito so that we can achieve our goal of cleaning the Manila Bay. Kailangan natin mag-

simula sa mga estero dahil ito ang pangunahing dahilan kung bakit dumumi nang husto ang Manila Bay," Cimatu added.

He added that by the middle of January next year, a consultative meeting with the concerned agencies will be held to find what possible solutions can be done.

The other agencies mandated to rehabilitate the Manila Bay are the Departments of Agriculture (DA), Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Education (DepEd), Health (DOH) and Budget and Management (DBM), the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine National Police-Maritime Group (PNP-MG), and Philippine Ports Authority (PPA). **Cory Martinez**



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LETHAL SOLUTION

MANILA BAY REHAB: RAPS EYED VS UNCOOPERATIVE LGUS

By Melvin Gascon
@melvingasconINQ

An interagency task force is set to file charges against local officials who have not been cooperating with government efforts to clean up Manila Bay.

"[The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)] is now preparing the filing of cases against noncompliant [local government units] in the implementation of the Clean Air, and Clean Water and Solid Waste Management acts, in supposed compliance with the [Supreme Court order]," said Donna Mayor-Gordove, executive director of the Manila Bay Coordinating Council, on Friday.

Operational plan

The filing of charges was part of the "operational plan in coastal strategy" that the interagency "technical thinking group" was taking as part of initial steps in the waterway's rehabilitation.

Gordove, however, declined to name the local government units that would be charged.

On Thursday, Environment



COLIFORM CONTENT CHECK DENR personnel check on Friday the coliform content of the water in Manila Bay which has been described as a "magnified cesspool."—MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

Sec. Roy Cimatu said the government needed to employ "lethal solutions" to the problem of cleaning up Metro Manila's main coastal waters starting next month.

According to Gordove, the DILG will take the lead role in the filing of charges against erring LGUs, with the help of the environment ombudsman.

Early rehabilitation efforts

which began in 2011 have proved futile because of a combination of factors, including the lack of cooperation from local officials, she said.

Final catchment

"We have to consider that Manila Bay is the final catchment of [water draining from] five provinces in [Central Luzon], three provinces in [Cal-

abarzon] and 16 cities and a town in Metro Manila. So if we want to clean up Manila Bay, we need to address all the sources [of pollution]," she added.

Gordove cited the "low" percentage of Metro Manila establishments—16 percent—that were connected to a sewer pipeline.

The rest, she said, drain their sewage waters directly into rivers that end up in Manila Bay.

Informal settlers problem

Officials were one in saying that the high concentration of informal settlers living on Metro Manila's riverbanks and estuaries was one of the major culprits in the high volume of garbage flowing into the bay.

In 2011, there were about 59,000 informal settler families in Metro Manila.

The figure has ballooned to about 300,000 families or about 1.5 million people today.

Cimatu earlier said that after Boracay Island, the DENR was eyeing to rehabilitate Manila Bay next, possibly in the second week of January. INQ

113 toneladang basura nahakot sa Manila Bay

MAHIGIT 113 toneladang basura ang nakuha sa 1.9 kilometrong-haba ng Manila Bay sa Roxas Blvd. sa Maynila sa isang buwang clean-up drive.

Ani Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chairman Danilo Lim na nakuha ang mga basura mula Nobyembre 3 hanggang Disyembre 3.

Sakop ng clean up drive ang lugar kung saan

nakatayo ang US Embassy.

"Ngayon, hindi na gaano kadami 'yung solid waste dito," ani Lim.

"Ang arrangement na lang natin with the local government of Manila ay magtalaga sila ng 30 na personnel na araw-araw ay nakatutok para bantayan, para ma-maintain itong kalinisan ng buong stretch na ito," dagdag ni Lim.—*Inquirer.net*



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Trapik na, tambak pa ang basura. Ito ang masasaksihan sa kalsada sa San Andres St. sa Singalong Maynila. (Kuha ni Edd Gumban)



DENR, target sa environmental management program nalampasan

NALAMPASAN ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang year-end target nito sa 2018 sa environmental programs sa solid waste management at clean air and clean water bilang top priorities na programa nito sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Ayon sa ahensya, ang programa ng solid waste management ang isa sa nangunguna sa listahan ng major accomplishments sa 2018, lalo na sa rehabilitasyon at closure plans kaugnay ng mga bukas at kontroladong dumpsites. Naka-

mit dito ang 22 percent accomplishment.

Ang Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ng DENR ng ahensya na tagasubaybay sa pagpapasara at pagrehabilitate ng mga dumpsite ng local government unit ay nakagawa ng monitoring na 654 nitong Nobyembre sa halip na 535 lamang.

Matagumpay ding namonitor ang 919 materials recovery facilities (MRFs) na 11 percent na mas mataas sa orihinal na target na 829 MRFs sa 2018.

Ang implementasyon ng pagpapasara, planong rehabilitasyon at pagtatatag ng MRFs ng

LGUs ang isang mandato ng Republic Act 9003 o Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Sa taong ito, ang National Solid Waste Management Commission ang inter-agency body na pinamumunuan ng DENR ay inaprubahan ang may 322 solid waste management plans (SWMPs) ng LGU na may kabuuang 806 simulang umiral ang nasabing batas.

Nalagpasan din ng DENR ang target nito sa 2018 kaugnay ng pagpapatupad ng RA 8749 o Clean Air Act of 1999.

Nabatid na may 100 percent accomplishment

ang ahensya sa paggawa at pag-update ng 22 airshed action plans at maintenance ng 98 air quality monitoring stations (AQMS) sa buong bansa.

Bilang bahagi ng implementation ng RA 9275 o Clean Water Act of 2004, nagawa ng DENR i-monitor ang compliance ng 8,664 pabrika at industriya na katumbas ng 122 percent ng taunang target na 7,123.

Nakapagbuo rin ang DENR ng 92 kasunduan sa mga LGU sa halip na 64 lang para sa "Adopt an Estero Program." **SANTICELARIO/PATRICIA ASTROLOGO/ERICA SIOCHI**



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The Manila Times

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Climate talks in Poland kick can down the road

First word

SINCE I have regularly reported in this column developments in the climate change debate, and published my own advocacy of climate-change skepticism against climate-change alarmism, I believe I also owe readers a report on the outcome of the recent



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Climate talks in Poland kick can down the road

two-week (December 2 to 14) COP 24 (Conference of the Parties) in Katowice, Poland.

I won't rely only on my personal estimate of the talks based on numerous published reports that the UN-sponsored talks jumped off the ship of global climate catastrophe.

For a more objective and impartial view, I turn instead to the final report of Reuters on the climate talks. I reprint it here in full, and I urge readers to make their own assessment about the success or failure of COP 24.

Climate talks pass baton

Here is the Reuters report by Agnieszka Barteczko and Nina Chestney:

"Fractious climate change talks in Poland showed the limits of international action to limit global warming in a polarized world, putting the onus on individual governments, cities and communities to stop temperatures rising.

"Nearly 200 countries at the United Nations talks in Katowice — in the coal mining region of Silesia — saved the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement from disintegration by agreeing on a package of guidelines for its implementation.

"But it deferred rules on carbon credits — a spur to business — and lacked any firm commitment to strengthen countries' emissions cut targets by 2020, when the agreement comes into force.

"As such, it left the parties a long way from the Paris deal's goal of keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius, let alone the cap of 1.5°C needed to avert more extreme weather, rising sea levels and the loss of plant and animal species.

"The world is heading for a 3-5 C rise in temperatures this century, the UN World Meteorological Organization has said.

"The Paris Agreement is based on individual commitments and expectations for the Polish talks to produce much more than rules for how those would be measured had always been low: the unity built in Paris had been shattered by a wave of governments placing national agendas before collective action.

"Only a handful of country

leaders were present in Katowice and the UN Secretary-General had to fly back to the meeting to urge progress.

"Political will is missing,' Alden Meyer, director at the Union of Concerned Scientists, a non-profit science advocacy group said as the conference staggered towards a finish delayed for more than 24 hours by last-minute wrangling over parts of the text.

"But it provides the hooks for governments, cities, businesses, civil society etc. to do the work to get (to the Paris Agreement goals),' he said.

"For conference president Michal Kurtyka it was a job well done. 'Mission accomplished,' he wrote on Twitter. 'Our children look back at our legacy and recognize that we took the right decisions at important junctures like the one we face today.'

"For nations already suffering from climate change, the agreement, which did not make clear how pledged funding would be provided, was only just better than nothing. Simon Stiell, environment minister of Grenada in the Caribbean, told Reuters it 'is barely scratching the surface of what we really require.'

"Investors said it would take more action at government level to persuade them to pump in the amount of money needed.

"Those countries ... who push ahead with ambitious, long-term climate policies will be the ones to reap the investment and economic advantages of doing so,' said Stephanie Pfeifer, Chief Executive of Institutional Investors' Group on Climate Change, noting the low-carbon transition was already under way.

"The United States, set to withdraw from the UN process at the behest of President Donald Trump, staged an event touting the benefits of burning fossil fuels, including coal, more efficiently, while back at home, Trump has termed the Paris deal 'ridiculous.'

"A scientific report requested by the Paris signatories said the share of coal-fueled power would have to be cut to under 2 percent by 2050, along with big cuts to other fossil fuels, to stop temperatures rising more than 1.5 C

and causing devastating floods, storms, heat waves and drought."

Climate report turned down

"The United States, as well as fellow oil producers Saudi Arabia, Russia and Kuwait, refused to 'welcome' the report, a term sought by countries seeking to focus minds on its findings.

"The final statement merely welcomed its timely completion and invited parties to make use of the information it contained.

"Yet the row over the report was far from the only one: China, India, Russia, Australia, Japan, Brazil and the European Union were all drawn into various rifts, although China won some praise for helping to overcome concern, especially from the United States, that it would sidestep any rules.

"I think they have come a long way in recognizing they need to provide confidence,' Jennifer Morgan, executive director of Greenpeace International, said of the Chinese negotiators.

"Describing Washington as 'out of touch,' Morgan noted the rules agreed in Poland nevertheless bound all countries, including the United States, an achievement in itself.

"But that doesn't substitute for the need to build ambition,' she said.

"Poland, hosting its third UN climate conference, came in for criticism for its commitment to coal, the most polluting of fossil fuels.

"The meeting's final statement merely 'noted' Warsaw's call for a 'just transition' allowing communities dependent on coal more time to adjust.

"The appointment of Kurtyka, Poland's deputy environment minister, to preside over the talks appeased some campaigners angered by the government's previous choice, former environment minister Jan Szyszko. Szyszko had expressed doubts that global warming is man-made in the past.

"However, Kurtyka's job was complicated by Poland's environment minister saying he did not want discussion about raising ambition at the talks and Poland's president vowing not to let anyone 'murder coal mining.'

"A focus on technicalities in the first week was interpreted

by campaigners as a pretext to avoid discussions on pledging deeper emissions cuts. Kurtyka got countries to focus on the guidelines near the end of the second week, but there was no collective action to harmonize or improve disparate pledges.

"Each delegation has its own domestic interests ... Our role, as the presidency, is to find balance, which ensures reaching a compromise,' Adam Guibourge-Czetwertynski, Poland's chief negotiator, said in the second week of talks.

"Poland's ruling party, the nationalist-minded Law and Justice (PiS), wants to scale back the share of coal in electricity production from 80 percent to 60 percent by 2030.

"But the production of hard coal is expected to be stable for decades, although 72 percent of Poles think it should be gradually phased out to reduce emissions, according to a survey by state-controlled pollster CBOS in November.

"Katowice, the heart of Poland's coal region, is among the most polluted cities in Europe, because many people heat their homes by burning low quality coal, which is the cheapest. Residents say they have no choice."

PH presence at Katowice

The Philippines still managed to be present at the Polish talks. The vice chairman of our climate change commission headed the country's delegation. He eluded DU30's dragnet against foreign trips.

A Philippine delegation of pilgrims popped up at the talks to demand "climate justice," meaning that rich countries should pay for the cost of global warming, and should indemnify countries like the Philippines and help them in fighting climate change.

The reason we committed to the Paris Agreement was principally the promise of massive financial aid in fighting climate change.

No money has come. After Katowice, there is even less chance of getting it.

What happens now to the UN's forecast of climate catastrophe? I think doomsday will be deferred to the next century.

yenmakabenta@yahoo.com

Phi, 194 countries adopt Paris deal guidelines

By HELEN FLORES

The Philippines and 194 other countries have adopted guidelines to implement the 2015 Paris Agreement meant to guide efforts for global climate action.

The so-called Paris Rulebook was adopted by all member-countries at the recently concluded 24th Conference of

Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 24) following two weeks of negotiations in Katowice, Poland.

The Paris Rulebook includes the establishment of a new finance goal of \$100 billion a year by 2020 to support developing countries in their disaster mitigation and resilience projects.

Climate Change Commission Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman, who led the Philippine delegation in the COP 24, said that more work still has to be done by all countries.

The Philippines, he said, reaffirmed its commitment to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement and engaged in all climate talks while protecting its key interests, including cli-

mate justice.

Countries are expected to re-submit or update their climate pledges known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020.

The Philippines is set to submit its NDCs next year after it has completed ground work with all local stakeholders—both with the national government agencies and the non-state ac-

tors, De Guzman said.

In 2015, the Philippines committed to reduce its emissions by 70 percent by 2030.

As chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum in 2015, the Philippines, on behalf of 48 developing countries, led the advocacy for the ambitious global warming threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius, which is now enshrined in the Paris

Agreement as its long-term temperature goal.

The Paris Agreement aims to strengthen global response to the threat of climate change by keeping the global temperature increase “well below” two degrees Celsius relative to pre-industrial times and preferably within 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The climate pact is set to come into effect in 2020.



A just transition into a clean energy future

By Beatrice Tulagan

AS THE climate negotiations in Katowice, Poland conclude with a Just Transition Declaration stressing that a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs are integral to the fulfillment of the goals of the Paris Agreement, we are once again left with a reminder that anything we're agreeing to in high-level political talks means significant changes on the ground for real people.

At the end of the day, much as we disagree with their practices, the tight grip of the fossil fuel industry on our economies means thousands of people rely on them not just for power but for jobs that put food on dinner tables and send generations of children to schools. Ultimately, calling for a transition to a clean energy future means securing these sources of livelihood and ensuring the integration of workers' rights in a new system powered by clean energy for all. As advocates, we must be conscious of the ramifications of the systemic change we are calling for on the most vulnerable sectors—sectors who, by the cruel joke of inequity due to capitalism, bear the anxiety of job loss because of widespread economic changes and impacts as conglomerate owners get tax breaks and profits.

In the Philippines, Ben* (not his real name), for example, has worked in a

coal-fired power plant in Bataan for 10 years. He values his above-minimum-wage salary as an operator and the regular status of company employees. "I recognize that coal plants have a bad effect on the environment and health," he said in a phone interview. "But it is a good job that allowed me to have a school service business on the side to escape poverty."

Ben is also part of a workers' union that unseated an erring general manager in the past, but describes his relationship with the management now as harmonious. "If coal plants do retire soon, I hope to find a job in a renewable energy plant."

So what is the extent of the state's responsibility to make sure workers are ready with the technical skills needed in an energy transition? Here, we have the Green Jobs Act of 2016 that seeks to "identify needed skills, develop training programs, and train and certify workers for jobs in a range of industries that produce goods and render services for the benefit of the environment, conserve natural resources for the future generation, and ensure the sustainable development of the country and its transition into a green economy." This sounds promising, but on the ground, we have a long way to go in protecting workers rights as local renewable energy players start and expand operations.

A source who does not want to be

identified has informed us that one of the biggest solar panel companies in the country that just scored a major government contract is also deterring its workers from organizing themselves to assure fair wages and safe workplace conditions. This is similar to a situation in Tesla in the United States, where efforts to unionize to appeal for higher wages are being shut down by the management with threats of dismissal. This is concerning for a sector that claims to be for sustainable development for all.

As advocates, we must ensure that our calls always reflect the needs and circumstances of marginalized sectors and the most vulnerable groups -- those who probably will never see the insides of negotiation halls. Frontline communities include not just those who are first impacted by climate change but also those who will be impacted by the systemic shift to a clean energy future. It is our duty to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for generations of abuse not just against the environment but against its people, and equally important, we must hold new players in the renewable energy sector to the same standard of ensuring the rights and welfare of workers and their families.

Beatrice Tulagan is the founder of media non-profit Climate Stories. She is also the East Asia Regional Field Organizer of 350.org.



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MANILA BAY INSPECTION.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials inspect the water on Manila Bay. The agency said that it has exceeded its year-end targets for environmental programs on solid waste management, clean air and clean water, and rehabilitation plans on Manila Bay which comprised the top priorities of Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Lino Santos



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



ENVIRONMENT personnel check for the coliform content of the water taken from the Manila Bay. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources starts its Manila Bay rehabilitation program. INQUIRER

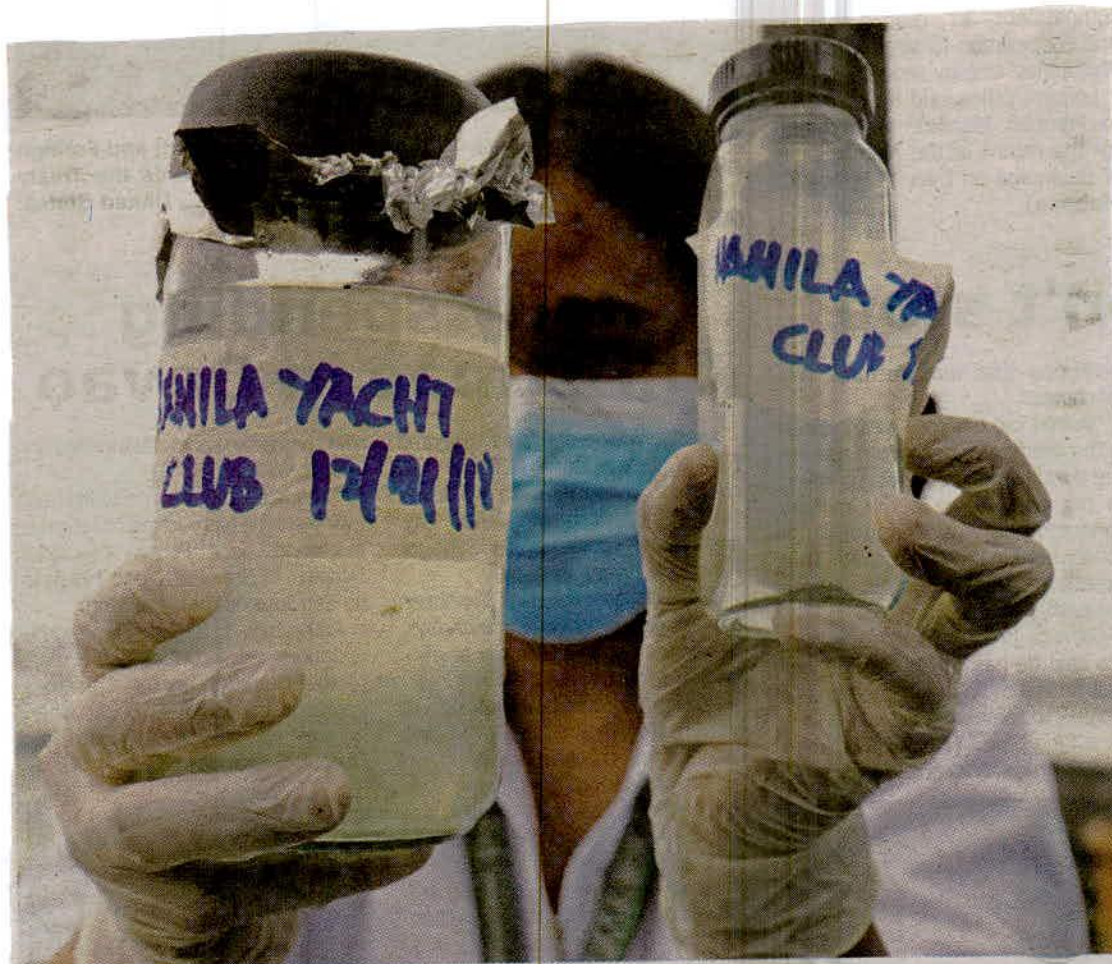


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WATER samples are taken by a Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau staff to be tested for fecal coliform content in preparation for the rehabilitation of the Manila Bay. (Czar Dancel)



Giving back to Mother Earth: PCSO hand in hand with Philippine Navy and DENR for Coastal Clean Up



In photo: (from left to right) PCSO GM Balutan, PN Grp. Comm. Col. Marcelino and Chief of Staff, Col. Liwag with their bags of collected marine wastes.

Photos by: Darcy Geronimo and Kobi Eduardo Janairo

Marine pollution as we know but mostly do not really pay attention to, is any human-made solid material that is disposed of or abandoned on coast, bay, beaches, in waterways that lead to the ocean, or in the ocean itself, regardless of whether disposal act is intentional, unintentional, indirect or direct. It is one of the global concerns that many of NGO units and government initiatives are addressing.

Some of the bad results of marine pollution cause marine mammals and fish can mistake floating trash for food; if ingested, it can choke them or block their digestive systems. Trash congested bays make the waters dirty. Large debris, such as old fishing nets and gears, can harm or worse kill marine life by strangulation or prevent them from performing vital activities such as swimming or diving. Plastic trash smaller than 5mm (microplastic) poses an additional threat because it adsorbs toxic chemicals, including DDT and PCBs, which can cause cancers, weaken the immune system and make animals more susceptible to diseases and other infections.

A very good initiative to be part of the solution of this pressing global issue was led by Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) together with Philippine Navy (PN) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on 17th of December 2018 at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), a nature reserve situated south of Manila Bay.

There were more than 100 volunteers from PCSO, PN and DENR seen on the Freedom Trail at LPPCHEA, performing team work clearing up plastic bottles, plastic residues,

and other non-biodegradable waste materials, including PCSO General Manager Alexander F. Balutan and his Chief of Staff, Col. Raymundo Liwag together with Grp. Comm. Col. Nestor R. Marcelino PN (MNSA), Co. CMOU-NCR Lcdn Ronald U. Lim PN and DENR Representative, Ruben Navales.

During the event opening, PCSO GM Balutan noted in his speech: *"Maraming salamat sa lahat ng nandito na gumising ng napakaaga para makiusa. This is a very nice endeavor and very impactful. This activity will be reaped by our citizens long term. We start small, little by little we will get there together,"* Balutan noted. *"When everybody's sitting, you should be standing. When everybody's standing, you should stand out. When everybody's outstanding you should be the standard."* He concluded, talking about doing something for the community, no matter who you are.

As PCSO's Corporate Social Responsibility, the Coastal Clean-up is conducted by the agency every year to show that more than helping the millions of Filipinos needing medical assistance, PCSO also helps Mother Earth.

According to DENR Representative Ruben Navales, there are currently 82 species of birds in coastal bay area and they are preserving and hoping that there would be increase as the coastal clears.

Grp. Comm. Col Nestor R. Marcelino PN (MNSA) from Philippine Navy in a statement : *"Nagpapasalamat kami sa PCSO para sa mga ganitong inisyatibo enjoining Philippine Navy. Kung hindi natin sama samang poprotektahan ang kalikasan ngayon, the next generation will suffer."*



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Neda: PH agriculture losses growing due to climate change

By Ben O. de Vera
@bendeveraINQ

The country's chief economist on Friday urged concrete steps to address climate change, noting the phenomenon poses risks to the agriculture sector's productivity and the country's food security.

During the launch of the book "The Future of Philippine Agriculture Under a Changing Climate: Policies, Investments and Scenarios," Socioeconomic

Planning Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia highlighted the "vital role" of agriculture in inclusive growth. He said the sector accounted for 31.5 percent of the labor force and also the primary source of raw materials for manufacturing and services.

"However, environmental hazards aggravated by climate change continue to pose significant risks to agricultural output and growth. In fact, as cited in the book, yearly losses between 2000 and 2016 include produc-

tion losses and damage to farm equipment, and irrigation and road facilities of P17.37 billion. This is equivalent to about 1.8 percent of the sector's yearly average gross value-added (GVA)," said Pernia, who heads the state planning agency National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

"Climate change is only about to get worse with recent rapid increases in temperature. If we do nothing, this will impede our target of increasing

agricultural productivity and ensuring food security," the Neda chief added.

Citing the warning of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming, Pernia also urged action against climate-related risks such as sea level rise, as well as food and water supplies, security, and health issues, which were expected to become worse once average global temperatures increase to 2 degrees Celsius.

Pernia said the Climate Change Strategy recently crafted by Neda would help assist policymaking efforts.

"The Neda Climate Change Strategy is a four-part initiative that will be implemented from 2018 to 2021 to catalyze behavioral change among Neda employees. With this Strategy, we aim to reduce the agency's energy and water consumption, and per capita greenhouse gas emissions, while maximizing productivity of our agency," Pernia

added.

"While this may be considered small in scale, we believe that influencing behavior at the individual level leads to more long-term positive impacts. Micro efforts lead to macro effects. Typically, in principle, it is easier to implicitly shame individuals who don't toe the line than countries can do. We hope to encourage other government agencies and stakeholders to do the same," he said. INQ



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Phl Eaglet dies of electrocution

DAVAO CITY – A juvenile Philippine Eagle died of electrocution from a concrete power pole in the hinterlands of the town of Arakan, North Cotabato.

According to the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), the remains of the eaglet were found by a farmer a meter away from an electric post.

Its carcass was brought to Romeo Panawad, a volunteer forest guard, who then turned it over to the PEF. PEF plans to have the remains of eaglet preserved for educational and scientific purposes.

The Philippine Eagle replaced the *maya* as the country's national bird during the Ramos administration.

Based on examination by PEF veterinarian Ana Lascano, the eaglet had burn marks on its left wing and right footpad. The left wing also had a compound fracture while a hole about 1 cm in diameter was found on the bird's footpad.

Based on review of photos by electrical engineer Floro Baguec Jr.

of the Apayao Province Engineering Office, the power pole the bird had come into contact with had a 200-volt "secondary line."

"The bird apparently came in contact with the two wires simultaneously, and the full voltage passing through its body caused its death," Apayao said.

A resident in the area said several animals such as monkeys and palm civets had died of electrocution from the same power pole. Accidental electrocution had been the cause of death of many large eagles in the US and Europe.

"This is the second instance that a Philippine Eagle died of electrocution in Mindanao. The first case was a captive-bred bird release at Mt. Apo in 2004. With the increasing rural electrification projects close to eagle habitats, power companies need to install mitigation measures to prevent more wildlife casualties, especially in areas close to nature," PEF executive director Dennis Salvador said. – **Edith Regalado**