

23 DEC 2018

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DAY :

Sunday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



DENR: Private sector to help fund Manila Bay cleanup

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

Certain industries have offered to help the government fund the rehabilitation of Manila Bay, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

Without naming the companies, Cimatu said their heads have also offered to come up with suggestions on how to go about the bay's cleanup.

"We will meet with them on Jan. 15. We will present to them the existing problems in Manila Bay as well as the possible solutions," the environment chief said at a recent press briefing.

The official earlier described the rehabilitation of Manila Bay as a difficult challenge, but worth taking nonetheless.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has directed an attached agency, the National Mapping Resource and Information Authority, to prepare maps that would help identify *esteros* or canals that directly release wastewater into Manila Bay.

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/100 ml.

"We'll be launching this plan into reality within the month of January so that we expect that by Christmas next year, we'll have a better Manila Bay," he said.

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.

Cimatu said the cleanup will cover four areas – Metro Manila and the provinces of Cavite, Bulacan and Bataan.

Cleanup expansion

While Cimatu's Manila Bay cleanup plan is "laudable," it should be expanded to include Pasig River and the Laguna de Bay, said former senator Eddie Ilarde in a letter to the environment secretary.

"We admire Sec. Roy Cimatu for focusing attention on the alarming problem of dirt and scum in the bay, which is interconnected with Pasig River and Laguna de Bae," Ilarde said.

"A simultaneous cleanup and dredging of these three bodies of water shall alleviate the situation, which if not addressed soon, can cause even more serious consequences," he said. In a statement, Ilarde described himself as the first environmentalist in Congress to expose the then growing scourge of water and air pollution in the country during the sixth Congress 52 years ago.

"An honest-to-goodness, no-nonsense government-private sector undertaking in this regard as enunciated by the secretary – unlike the unconcern of previous administrations – needs immediate implementation," he said.

"It is gratifying that President Duterte is the first president to condemn the mindless destruction of the environment in this country, such as open-pit mining, the degradation of our waterways and other forms of environmental destruction," Ilarde said.

In support of Ilarde's proposal, internationally recognized urban planner

Felino Palafox Jr. recently noted that "clearing these waterways, first collecting millions of tons of garbage and muck can bring back their natural depth and the unhampered flow of water, in effect shall make their rehabilitation

and development easier."

Ilarde said Maharlika Movement officers and members passed a resolution expressing support for an expansion of Cimatu's Manila Bay cleanup to include Pasig River and La-

guna de Bay. The success of such endeavor, according to the resolution, "can help the economy and put to maximum use these natural resources which are gifts of God for our people."



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1800

MANILA BULLETIN

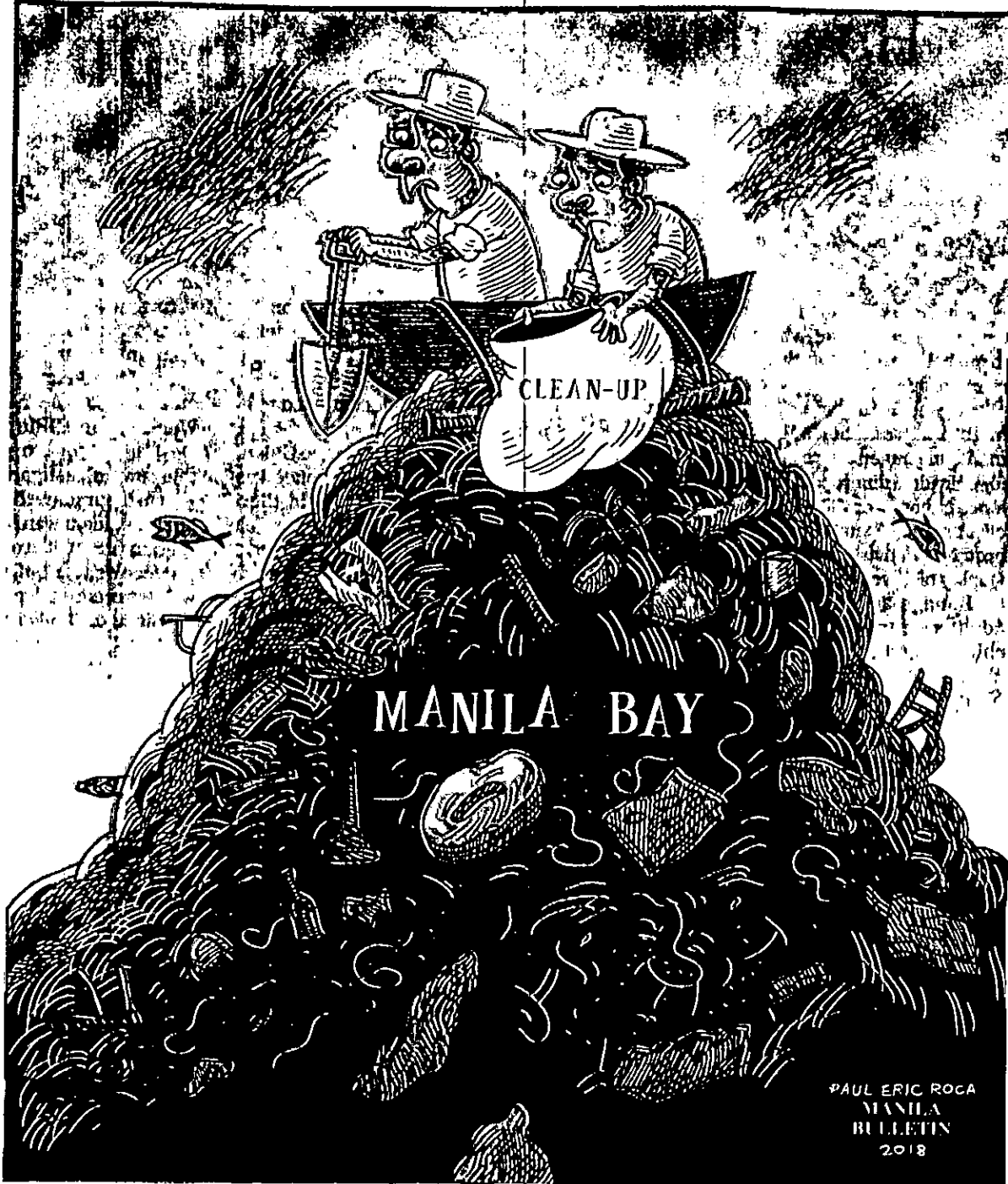
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



23 DEC 2019

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Long-overdue bay clean up



PAUL ERIC ROCA
MANILA
BULLETIN
2018

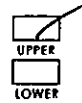


Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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and Long-overdue bay cleanup underway

THE move to clean up Manila Bay may not be drawing as much attention as the recent overhaul of Boracay island but it is getting underway after so many years of inaction which have made the bay much worse than the cesspool that President Duterte called Boracay last May.

After an initial plan to set up four Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENROs) to monitor the progress of the bay cleanup beginning this January, Secretary Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced additional plans to relocate "squatters" now living in various coastal areas and launch coastal cleanups.

The four CENROs will be located in Manila, in Navotas-Malabon, in Pasay-Parañaque, and in Las Piñas, the four most polluted parts of the bay. They will be monitoring the progress of the drive, with emphasis on the coliform bacterial level which is already more than three times that of Boracay's waters when it was closed down.

Secretary Cimatu said the pollution in the bay is caused by domestic sewage, toxic effluents from factories and other industries, shipping operations, and leachate from garbage dumps. Of these four basic sources of pollution, domestic sewage is probably the biggest and most serious cause of Manila Bay's high bacterial content.

All over Metro Manila, streams flow from towns and cities into the Pasig River and then into Manila Bay, carrying untreated sewage and other housing wastes. Former DENR Secretary Lito Atienza said this week, unless the area's two water concessioners set up the water treatment plants provided in their concession contracts, there will be no substantial lessening of the pollution.

This is aside from the plastics and other garbage that are also thrown into the streams and rivers flowing into the Pasig that end up in Manila Bay. Truckloads are collected by various volunteer groups conducting occasional cleanup drives.

But it is the sewage that is the real problem, that turned Manila Bay into a cesspool long before President Duterte noticed this problem in Boracay. As long ago as in 2008, the Supreme Court ordered 13 government agencies led by the DENR to clean up the bay, but it is only now – after its success in Boracay – that the DENR has turned its attention to this much bigger problem right in Manila, the capital of the country, no less.

We have all the confidence that DENR, benefiting from its experience in Boracay, will be able to make up for all the neglect of the past as it now concentrates, with the assistance of all sectors, private and public, on the bacterial pollution that has made Manila Bay's waters unfit for swimming and other contact recreation.



ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAPAAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANGSA



EDITORIAL

Sinisimulan na ang matagal nang natenggang paglilinis sa Manila Bay

BAGAMAT hindi nakakuha ng kasinglakas na atensiyon ang hakbang para linisin ang Manila Bay katulad ng isinagawa kamakailan sa isla ng Boracay, sinisimulan na ngayon ito makalipas ang maraming taon ng kawalan ng aksiyon na nagpatindi sa kalagayan ng look kumpara sa 'cesspool' na itinawag ni Pangulong Duterte sa Boracay nitong Mayo.

Makaraan ang insiyal na plano para sa pagbuo ng apat na Community Environment and Natural Resources offices (CENROs) upang mabantayan ang pagsulong ng paglilinis sa look simula Enero, inanunsiyo ni Secretary Roy Cimatu ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang dagdag na plano upang ilipat ng tirahan ang mga iskwater na ngayon ay naninirahan sa iba't ibang baybaying bahagi at maglunsad ng coastal cleanups.

Itatayo ang apat na CENRO sa Maynila, Navotas-Malabon, Pasay-Parañaque at sa Las Piñas, ang apat na pinakamaruming bahagi ng look. Babantayan nila ang pagsulong ng kampanya, na nakatuon sa lebel ng coliform bacteria na ngayong higit tatlong beses na mas mataas sa tubig ng Boracay ng ito ay isara.

Sinabi ni Secretary Cimatu na ang polusyon sa Manila Bay ay mula sa mga dumi ng imburnal sa mga bahay, mga nakalalasang kemikal na umaagos galing sa mga pabrika at ibang industriya, sa operasyon ng mga barko, at sa leachate mula sa mga tambakan ng basura. Sa nabanggit na apat na pangunahing pinagmumulan ng polusyon, ang mga dumi mula sa bahay ang malamang na pinakamalaki at pinakamatinding nagdudulot ng mataas na bacterial content sa Manila Bay.

Sa buong Metro Manila, dumadaloy ang mga sapa o batis mula sa bayan at lungsod patungo sa Ilog Pasig na tumutuloy sa Manila Bay, bitbit ang mga dumi ng mga imburnal at iba pang dumi mula sa mga bahay. Nitong nagdaang linggo, sinabi ni dating DENR Secretary Lito Atienza na hanggat hindi nakakapagtayo ng water treatment plant ang dalawang nagsu-supply ng tubig na nakasaad prebelehiyong kontrata, walang mangyayaring pagbuti o pagbawas sa polusyon.

Bukod pa ito sa mga plastic at iba pang basura na itinatapon din sa mga sapa at ilog na dumadaloy sa Pasig na napupunta sa Manila Bay, ilang truck na puno ng basura ang nakokolekta ng iba't ibang grupo ng volunteer na nagsasagawa ng panaka-nakang aktibidad ng paglilinis sa look.

Ngunit ang dumi mula sa imburnal ng mga bahay ang tunay na problema, na nagdulot sa Manila Bay na maging isang 'cesspool' bago pa mabansin ni Pangulong Duterte ang problemang ito sa Boracay. Lalo't 2008 pa lamang, ipinag-utos na ng Korte Suprema sa 13 ahensiya ng pamahalaan, sa pangunguna ng DENR, ang paglilinis ng Manila Bay, ngunit tanging ngayon lamang – makalipas ang tagumpay sa Boracay – ibinaling ng DENR ang kanilang atensiyon sa malaking problemang ito ng Maynila, ang kabisera ng bansa.

Kumpiyansa tayo na malaki ang maitutulong ng naging karanasan ng DENR sa Boracay, upang bumawi sa lahat ng pagbalewala sa nakalipas sa pagtutok ngayon ng ahensiya, kasama ng tulong ng lahat ng sektor, pribado at pampubliko, sa polusyon na naging dahilan kung bakit hindi maaaring paglanguyan at pagdausan ng ibang aktibidad ang tubig ng Manila Bay.



Editorial

Linisin ang Manila Bay

DAPAT noon pa nilinis ang Manila Bay na maituturing na “cesspool” katulad nang paglalarawan ni President Duterte sa Boracay. Maaaring mas matindi pa sa Boracay ang Manila Bay sapagkat maraming informal settlers ang nagtatapon ng kanilang dumi at basura rito.

Hindi tumalima ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa utos ng Supreme Court noong 2008 na linisin, i-rehabilitate at ipreserba ang Manila Bay. Lumipas ang 10 taon at walang paggalaw sa DENR at iba pang ahensiya. At ang resulta, nagmistula nang basurahan ang Manila Bay. Kung makikita ang mga basurang naglutangan sa break water ng Manila Bay, maaaring bumaliktad ang sikmura ng sinuman. Kakadiri ang mga basura sapagkat umaalingasaw 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, malinis na malinis 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 magawa ito, kailangan munang ma-relocate ang squatters. Kapag na-relocate, saka lamang marehabilitate ang Manila Bay. Naniniwala kaming makakaya ni Cimatu na linisin ang Manila Bay gaya nang ginawa niya sa Boracay.



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CARTOON

23 DEC 2018

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TARGET ON WASTE MANAGEMENT EXCEEDED

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources has exceeded its year-end targets for environmental programs on solid waste management, clean air and clean water, the top priorities of Secretary Roy Cimatu.

The agency's program on solid waste management topped the list of its major accomplishments in 2018, having exceeded its target for the implementation of rehabilitation and closure plans for open and controlled dumpsites by 22 percent.

Through its Environmental Management Bureau, the DENR was supposed to monitor only 535 closure and rehabilitation plans of local government units this year, but it ended up monitoring 654 as of November.

Cimatu said it also successfully monitored 919 materials recovery facilities (MRFs) or around 11 percent higher than the original target of 829 MRFs for 2018.

Both the implementation of closure and rehabilitation plans and the establishment of MRFs by LGUs are mandated under Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Also this year, the National Solid Waste Management Commission, an inter-agency body chaired by the DENR, was able to approve a record 322 solid waste management plans (SWMPs) of LGUs, bringing to 806 the total number of approved SWMPs since the enactment of RA 9003.

According to Cimatu, the agency was able to surpass its 2018 targets in connection with the implementation of RA 8749, or the Clean Air Act of 1999.

It registered a 102 percent accomplishment in terms of monitoring the compliance of industries to emission standards set by the EMB.

A total of 16,117 industries were monitored for their emissions in 2018.

There was also 100 percent accomplishment in the formulation and updating of 22 air-shed action plans and maintenance of 98 air quality monitoring stations (AQMS) across the country. Properly maintained AQMS are crucial to the monitoring of air quality in Metro Manila and other urban centers. **Rio N. Araja**



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MWSS urges DENR to fast-track ECC issuance to Kaliwa Dam project

By **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was told to fast-track the issuance of Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the multi-billion Kaliwa Dam Project, the first and only major water infrastructure project expected to start within this administration.

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator Reynaldo Velasco said in an interview with reporters that he already asked Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to "ask his people" to expedite the processing of ECC for the project.

Without the ECC, any project that may potentially have an impact to the environment could not push through.

"They should have a sense of urgency because this is a national government project that was signed by President Rodrigo Duterte," Velasco

said.

On November 19, Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping, during his state visit here in the country, formally forged the ₱12.2-billion Kaliwa Dam deal, which will be largely funded by the Chinese government.

Kaliwa Dam — which will supply additional 600 million liters daily (mld) by 2023 to Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal and Bulacan — is going to be largely funded by the Chinese government.

The project, albeit with the intention of securing water supply for Metro Manila, was earlier faced with opposition.

Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance, Inc. (SSMNA) Alyansa Laban sa Kaliwa Dam, Task Force Sierra Madre, and Tribal Center for Development all argued that the construction of a massive dam at the heart of Quezon and Rizal provinces will be detrimental to the environment.

According to them, the project could

also potentially displace communities in Quezon and Rizal provinces and may sabotage the country's efforts to prepare for a strong earthquake.

Velasco, however, said experts and the agency's consultants have already carefully studied this possibility and made sure it can withstand the Big One just in case it strikes.

He also said that the preliminary works on the project already started and that the construction will formally start by March.

When asked about it, Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones said the agency is hoping to approve the ECC within three months.

"The scoping [on the project] is already done and it will undergo procedural screening to be conducted by EMB [Environmental Management Bureau]. Once EMB accepted the report, we have 120 days to approve the ECC," Leones said.



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DENR: Cruise ship visits won't affect Boracay's carrying capacity

Cruise ships recently seen in Boracay will not affect the carrying capacity of the island, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

"What we are concerned about is their impact on anchorage. Upon checking, there is no need to worry,"

DENR Undersecretary Sherwin Rigor told a recent press conference.

A study by the DENR's Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau showed that Boracay's daily carrying capacity is only 54,945, broken down into 19,215 tourists and 35,730 residents, migrants and

workers.

The study also showed that the existing population on the island is almost 30 percent higher than its carrying capacity.

The Boracay interagency task force said authorities are limiting the number of tourists on the island to 6,405 a day.

Several residents and

business owners are reportedly protesting the arrival of cruise ships on the island, claiming they only add to congestion without contributing to the local economy.

The interagency task force is finalizing the guidelines concerning cruise ships.

- Rhodina Villanueva



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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

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CIMATU CONCESSION

'MINAHANG BAYAN' OPENS IN BENGUET MINING TOWN

BAGUIO CITY—Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has allowed a 1-hectare "Minahang Bayan" (people's mine) exclusively for pocket miners at a site in Itogon town, Benguet province, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) here said on Saturday.

The Minahang Bayan in Itogon was the first to be segregated in the Cordilleras after it received the consent of patent owner, Benguet Corp., the country's first mining company, the MGB said.

Members of the Loacan Itogon Pocket Miners Association applied for the right to mine in the area after they lost their tunnels in July, when the mining bureau stated closing down illegal mining sites in the region.

Cimatu withdrew all pocket mining permits and ordered a crackdown on illegal tunnels after a landslide, triggered by Typhoon "Ompong" (international name: Mangkhut), killed more than 100 people, mostly pocket miners, in Itogon in September.

Since pocket mining remains an informal trade, the government has scarce information on how many people are affected by the crackdown.

Inadequate data

But initial estimates place the number between 20,000 and 100,000 people, according to Ralph Pablo, Cordillera director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Pablo said pocket mining remained "a significant source of livelihood and employment for many people in the Cordillera."

Data on gold production is also inadequate, with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas records showing that only 15 kilograms of gold, worth P22.4 million, were bought from small-scale miners in 2015, he said.

This was because most pocket miners sold their gold in the black market to avoid paying taxes, he said.

"In 2018, a key informant estimated that an average of 200 kg of gold per month was sold in the black market. At an average of P1,000 per gram, this amounted to P200 million per month or P2.4 billion per year [in lost income for the pocket mining communities]," he said.

Local leaders said integrating the pocket mining sector into the mining industry was needed to ease the economic impact of the crackdown and to manage pollution from mining activities. —VINCENT CABREZA INQ



'Pinas, epektibong Coral Triangle 'protector'

Minarkahan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang 2018 bilang banner year para sa Pilipinas bilang isang "protector" ng Coral Triangle— isang rehiyon na kilala bilang sentro ng marine biodiversity sa buong mundo.

Bilang miyembro ng six-nation partnership, inihayag ng DENR na malaki ang naiambag ng Pilipinas hinggil sa epektibong pangangasiwa ng marine protected areas (MPAs) at fisheries ng bansang kasapi, lalo na sa Coral Triangle region.

"The year 2018 was a good one for the Philippines in terms of our efforts and achievements as a member of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF)," lahad ni Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez, ng DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB).

Ang CTI-CFF ay isang multilateral partnership ng anim na bansa - Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste at Pilipinas— at nagtutulung-tulong ang mga ito para panatilihin ang mayamang marine at coastal resources sa rehiyon na kilala bilang "global center of marine biodiversity" dahil sa nagawa nitong solusyon sa isyu ng seguridad sa pagkain at pagbabago sa klima.

Ayon kay Rodriguez, nagamapanan

ng bansa ang pangako nitong bumuo ng mas maraming MPAs, alinsunod sa Republic Act 11038 o ang Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS) Act ngayong taon.

Dahil sa E-NIPAS Law naging 43 ang kabuuang bilang ng nationally-managed MPAs at 1,816 locally managed MPAs, lahat ay saklaw ng 1.4 porsiyento ng kabuuang lawak ng karagatan ng Pilipinas:

"One of the milestones of the Philippines is the legislation of additional 10 (nationally managed) MPAs under the (E-NIPAS Act)," ani Rodriguez.

Ang MPAs ay mga lugar sa dagat

na lilimitahan ang pagpunta ng tao para sa konserbasyon at proteksiyon ng mga likas na yama na matatagpuan sa mga ito.

Iniulat din ni Rodriguez ang buong implementasyon ng Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program, na sumasaklaw sa mga aktibidad gaya ng habitat assessment para sa NIPAS MPAs, MPA networking technical assistance para sa local government units (LGUs), pagsuporta sa 25 MPA networks at tinatayang 200 biodiversity-friendly enterprises at ang pagsama ng ocean acidification baseline study sa mga piling MPAs.

Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz



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'GRADUATION LEGACY' ECO MEASURE PASSED

By Rio N. Araja

CONGRESS has passed on second reading the proposed "Graduation Legacy for the Environment Act" requiring all graduating elementary, high school and college students to plant at least 10 trees as a prerequisite for graduation.

Magdalo Party-list Rep. Gary Alejano authored House Bill 8728 declaring that the State shall pursue programs and projects that promote environment protection, biodiversity, climate change

mitigation, poverty reduction and food security.

He said the educational system should be used as an avenue for propagating ethical and sustainable use of natural resources among the

youth to ensure the cultivation of a socially responsible and conscious citizenry.

Deputy Minority Leader and Abang Lingkod party-list Rep. Joseph Stephen Paduano, Rep. Strike Revilla of Cavite, Noel Villanueva of Tarlac, Mark Go of Baguio City and Pablo Ortega of La Union co-authored the proposed measure.

The bill mandates the Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education to implement the bill, if passed into a law, in partnership with

the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Budget and Management, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, Department of Transportation, Department of National Defense, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Justice, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.



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CARTOON

23 DEC 2010

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Tree-planting sa mga graduating

Pinagtibay sa pangalawang pagbasa ng Kamara ang panukalang "Graduation Legacy for the Environment Act", na nag-oobliga sa mga magtatapos sa elementarya, high school, at kolehiyo na magtanim ng 10 punongkahoy bilang prerequisite sa graduation, na magiging pamana o living legacy nila sa kapaligiran para sa susunod na henerasyon ng mga Pilipino.

Isinasaad ng House Bill 8728, na akda ni Magdalo Party-list Rep. Gary Alejano, na dapat magsagawa ang gobyerno ng mga programa at proyekto na magsusulong sa "environment protection, biodiversity, climate change mitigation, poverty reduction, and food security."



23 DEC 2013

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Editorial

Hangin na may lason

HINDI lamang Manila Bay ang polluted, kundi maging ang hangin sa Metro Manila ay marumi rin. Dahil sa sobrang dumi ng hangin, nakaamba sa mga taga-Metro Manila ang iba't ibang sakit. Araw-araw, ang nalalanghap nilang hangin ay may lason.

Nababalot ng smoke at fog (smog) ang kapaligiran ng Metro Manila at nalalanghap ito ng mamamayan. Kapag hindi napigilan ang smog, malaki ang magiging problema ng mamamayan sa kanilang kalusugan.

Sa isang forum, sinabi ng cardiologist na si Dr. Jorge Sison, kailangan na mag-face masks ang mga taga-Metro Manila dahil sa malubhang air pollution. Si Sison ay pinuno ng Cardiology ng Medical Center Manila. Ayon pa sa doctor, ang mga malalaking kalsada na kinabibilangan ng EDSA, Taft Avenue, Quezon Avenue at C5 ay grabe ang pollution. Dito sa mga kalsadang ito yumayaot ang mga pampublikong sasakyan gaya ng mga jeepney.

Hindi na ligtas tirahan ang Metro Manila dahil sa air pollution. Sabi sa pag-aaral na ginawa ng University of the Philippines, 10 taon pa at hindi na maaring tirahan ang MM dahil sobrang polluted na ang hangin.

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. Ang dahilan: air pollution. Mas gusto ng mga dayuhan na puntahan ang mga lugar na malinis ang hangin. Pinakarharami ang gustong manirahan sa Vienna, Austria at Singapore.

Isa sa maaaring gawin ng DENR ay ang pagpapaligting sa anti-smoke belching campaign. Isulong nila ang pag-phase out sa mga lumang sasakyan gaya ng dyipni. Ang mga lumang dyipni ay nagbubuga ng 80 porsiyento ng nakalalasang usok. Ipatupad ang nakasaad sa Clean Air Act of 1999 na bawal ang paggamit ng incinerators at pagsusunog ng basura. 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 air pollution sa Metro Manila. Nagawa niyang linisin ang Boracay at balak din niyang linisin ang Manila Bay. Mas maganda kung uunahing linisin ang maruming hangin sa MM sapagkat halos lahat ay nakalalanghap nito.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Rags to riches... salamat sa basura

Ni Leifbilly Begas

NARINIG mo na ba ang kasabihan na "May pera sa basura"?

Hindi naman ibig sabihin na makakapulot ka ng limpak-limpak na pera sa basura, pwede rin na ang basura ang magiging pera.

Ayon sa isinulat ni Kiah Yancy sa ListVerse, mayroong mga tao na yumaman dahil sa basurang itinapon ng iba.

Maen Mahfoud

Marami nang pinagdaanan ang UC Berkeley na graduate na si Maen Mahfoud pero di ito naging hadlang na tumulong sa iba. At upang makatulong sa mga mahihirap ay itinayo niya ang Replate upang ipunin ang mga pagkaing patapon na at mapakinabangan ng iba.

Mula nang simulan ni Mahfoud ang kumpanya noong Enero 2016, lumawak ang kanilang operasyon sa may 300 siyudad at nakapagpakain ng 1.1 milyong tao.

Ang nasasayang na pagkain ay isa sa pangunahing problema ng mundo samantalang napakaraming tao ang hindi nakakakain ng sapat.

Tom Szaky

Si Tom Szaky ay isang dropout sa Princeton na gustong makatulong sa mundo at ang resulta ay ang kompanyang TerraCycle, isang fertilizer company na gumagawa ng pataba mula sa mga dumi ng uod na nakakulong sa bote.

Lumawak ang operasyon ng kumpanya at nagdagdag sila ng mga bagay na maaaring i-recycle. Mula rito ay nanguna ang TerraCycle sa "upcycling."

Ayon sa Forbes magazine, si Szaky ay nagkakahalaga na ng \$13 milyon. Para sa isang college dropout na nagsimula sa dumi ng uod ay malayo na ang kanyang narating.

sisimula ng dalawa dahil marami silang kalabang kumpanya pero naitayo nila ang IceStone LLC.

Nakipag-partner sila sa malalaking organisasyon gaya ng NASA at The Gates Foundation upang lumago.

Ang mga salamin at semento na hindi na nila magagamit ay ginagamit naman na panambak sa mga kalsada bago buhisan ng semento.

Renee Hansen

Nanggaling sa San Francisco Bay area si Renee Hansen na sa murang edad ay namulat na sa recycling.

Sa kanyang bakuran ay gumawa siya ng composting bins upang mabawasan ang itina-

tapong basura ng kanyang pamilya.

Dito nagsimula ang SpinFish at Hipcycle, dalawang kumpanya na nagbebenta ng mga pre-used items.

Ang SpinFish ay nakatuon sa pagbili ng mga kalat na ibinebenta rin nila sa ibang kompanya na may kailangan nito.

Ang Hipcycle naman ang bumibili ng mga basura ng mga tao at ibinebenta ito sa mga nangangailangan.

Piet Heih Eek

Si Piet Hein Eek ay isang Dutch designer at ang kanyang misyon ay gawing art at kasangkapan sa bahay ang mga basura.

Nagsimula si Piet nang gumawa ng project para sa Academy for Industrial Design sa Eindhoven.

Nabili ang kanyang mga obra na nakarating sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo. Nagtayo na rin siya ng sarili niyang restaurant kung saan matatagpuan ang ilan sa kanyang mga nilikha.

Pumasok na rin si Piet sa isang partnership sa Ikea upang gumawa ng mga koleksyon na ibebenta sa iba't ibang megastore



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

next pages to riches

**Miranda Magagnini,
Peter Strugatz**
 Naging business partners sina Miranda Magagnini at Peter Strugatz sa paggawa ng countertops gamit ang recycled na semento at salamin. Graduate ang dalawa sa Harvard Business School. Mahirap ang pag-



sa buong mundo.
Scott Hamlin, Gary Peck

Gaya ng iba, nais nina Scott Hamlin at Gary Peck na mabawasan ang kalat sa mundo. Noong 2009 ay itinayo nila ang Loopyworks na gumagawa ng recycled textile.

Ang kanilang motto: "Use only what already exists."

Nakabase sa Portland ang Loopyworks na gumagawa ng mga handbag, case at iba pang pang-araw-araw na bagay mula sa mga itinapong tela.

Ian Rosenberger

Si Ian Rosenberger ang nasa likod ng Thread na ang layunin ay labanan ang pandaigdigang kahirapan.



rapan.

Matapos ang malakas na lindol sa Haiti noong 2010, itinayo ni Ian ang Thread upang makapagpadala ng tulong sa Haiti.

Kinukuha ng Thread ang mga basura sa mga mahihirap na lugar at ginagawa itong mapakikinaabangan ng iba upang maibenta.

Si Ian ay nagtapos sa Penn State at naglakbay sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo upang pag-aralan ang economic development sa mga mahihirap na bansa.

Dan Phillips

Ang Phoenix Commotion na itinayo ni Dan Phillips ay gumagawa ng mga construction materials para sa pagtatayo ng mga murang bahay.

Tumutulong din si Dan sa pagedisenyo ng bahay ng mga gustong gumamit ng kanyang mga materyales. Pwede sa kanya na ang gagawa ng bahay ay ang titira rito.

Maria Rios

Si Maria Rios ay isang garbage lady na naging isang multimillion dollar trash businesswoman.

Habang nasa kolehiyo, nagtrabaho siya sa isang waste removal company. Nangutang siya sa bangko para makabili ng dalawang dump truck na siyang naging simula ng Nation Waste.

Si Maria ay kinilala ng Fortune and Goldman Sachs dahil sa kanyang magandang work ethic at nakapagbigay ng sigla sa isa sa pinakamaraming trabaho sa mundo.



Matt Malone
 Kung wala kang ginagawa, pwede kang gumaya kay Matt Malone at maging professional dumpster diver.

May isang dekada ng dumpster diver si Matt. Ang kumpanya na kanyang pinapasukan dati ay inutusan siya na kumuha ng bagong kaalaman sa isang negosyo na wala siyang alam. At ang kanyang napili ay basurahan.

Ayon kay Malone, hindi siya isang full time diver pero kumikita siya ng \$250,000 kada taon dito.

Binuksan na rin ni Malone ang kompanya na tinawag niyang Austin.



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Roy Cimatu

"This will perhaps be my best Christmas," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu told reporters on Thursday, visibly in high spirits after winning praises for the government's "successful" rehabilitation of Boracay Island. As chair of the Boracay inter-agency task force, Cimatu oversaw the six-month closure and cleanup of the island. The task force has since planned a series of rehabilitation work on the country's other major tourist spots, such as El Nido in Palawan, Panglao in Bohol and Puerto Galera in Mindoro Oriental. This week, Cimatu announced an ambitious mission, one that past administrations have failed to do: clean up the Manila Bay. "I am optimistic that this can be done. We can apply here the same strategy we used in Boracay," he said.



Rizal forest plan finalist in UN tourism awards

The Masungi Georeserve forest conservation project in Baras, Rizal was named a finalist in the annual tourism awards of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

The conservation project was named one of the three finalists in the award category for enterprises, which is presented to those that operate projects or offer products or services that are innovative in the tourism field.

Operated by the Masungi Georeserve Foundation, the conservation project aims to rehabilitate the rainforest in Baras, Rizal that was previously subjected to deforestation and land-grabbing activities.

It has since developed into a popular travel destination, allowing visitors to explore the rainforest and various rock formations in the area.

The foundation adopted a limited development and geotourism model to sustain its conservation activities.

UNWTO said this innovation could be demonstrated through environmentally friendly applications, social corporate responsibility engagement and other innovative contributions.

The agency said the awards recognize the contribution of distinguished scholars and institutions to competitive and sustainable tourism development at the local, national and international level.

Other categories include awards in public policy and governance and for non-government organizations.

Other finalists in the enterprise category were the Community Impact project by V Resorts in India and the Fighting Food Waste at Sea program in Italy.

The UNWTO winners will be announced next month.

- Janvic Mateo



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HOUSE LEADERS HEED DU30 CALL ON ROAD BOARD

By Rio N. Araja
and Vito Barcelo

HOUSE Majority Leader and Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. has given in to the call of President Rodrigo Duterte to support the abolition of the Road Board.

In a statement sent to the media, Andaya said "the President has spoken. We heard his message to the House. We will act based on his guidance."

Earlier, the House majority leader said there would be no Road Board abolition after he and Speaker Gloria Arroyo met with the President, who allegedly wanted the Road Board to continue and disburse funds from the road users' tax.

Congress rescinded the abolition of the Road Board passed under the

speakership of Davao del Norte Rep. Pantaleón Alvarez.

Andaya previously said Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo might have been "misinformed" when he said the President backed the agency's abolition, adding a proposed bill would create a special fund directly under the disposal of the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Department of Transportation.

"As an institution, we will heed the President's call. Finally, we can concentrate on the scrutiny of the 2018 budget, parked pork and P75-billion Department of Budget and Management insertions," Andaya yesterday said.

"All is well. The public, however, needs to understand not just the abolition phase but also what is sought after that," he added.

In Malacañang, Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo on Saturday said

Andaya was finally in touch with reality contrary to the solon's claim he and Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno were out of touch in regard to the abolition of the graft-ridden Road Board.

In a statement, Panelo, who is also the Presidential Legal adviser, said the President was serious to abolish the road board, which is the milking cow of corrupt politicians.

Panelo said the President, pursuant to the command of the Constitution to serve and protect the people, had laid the basis of his governance at the inception of his presidency that the people's money shall only be spent for their welfare, and those who steal from it shall be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law.

"Let the President's call for a clean and responsive government to the needs of the governed be taken to heart by those who temporarily wield political power so that our country could commence

to traverse the path righteousness and progress so long denied them by those they have entrusted with authority."

During the PAF change-of-command at Villamor Air Base, Duterte said he wanted the Road Board abolished since he assumed the presidency in 2016.

"Ever since I assumed office, I've always been wary about this office because it has been the milking cow of people who are corrupt in government. Ever since I've really questioned the existence of this office. It's nothing but a depository of money meant for corruption," Duterte said.

"You know there's a little bit of a ruckus there in Congress regarding the abolition or the continuance of the road user's tax—board. I believe that the Senate has decided the right thing and has stated that the road tax—board has been dismantled," he added.

Moreover, Andaya said, "if the President wants an abolition of the road

board, let it be real abolition. No residues. No Three Road Kings."

"We are in support of putting proceeds from the motor vehicle users' charge (MUV) as part of the General Fund. Not an off budget item that will be spent by one person in an untransparent way," he added.

According to Andaya, the proceeds need to be included as a line-item fund in the annual budget of the DPWH in the General Appropriations Act.

"This way, the real and full funding level of the DPWH is reflected clearly, unlike today when MVUC spending is segregated and treated as a non-national budget expenditure," he said.

"We also prefer that non-road user activities like garbage collection be stricken off the spending menu," he added.

"If the President will send a better bill and certify it as urgent, the House, convinced of its merits, will approve it without delay."