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**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



# 10,000 Manila Bay establishments inspected – DENR

By **RHODINA VILLANUEVA**

Close to 10,000 commercial establishments around Manila Bay have been inspected since the bay's rehabilitation program was launched a year ago, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The Environmental Management Bureau said of the 9,708 commercial establishments, 2,478 were issued notices of violations and 107 were slapped with cease and desist orders.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who chairs the Manila Bay Task Force, said much has been achieved since the cleanup started last year, but

more still needs to be done to make it fit again for swimming and other forms of recreation.

"Our efforts to restore Manila Bay are in full swing. We hope to sustain the momentum of restoring it to its former glory in the coming years," Cimatu said.

The rehabilitation of Manila Bay would remain a top priority of the government until 2022, he said.

According to Cimatu, the rehabilitation program is in the first phase, which is cleanup and water quality monitoring.

He said the next two phases would focus on relocation and education, protection and sustainment.

Since the rehabilitation started in January 2019, around 70,000 volunteers from the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and Calabarzon have collected over 2.3 million kilos of waste through cleanups, trash boats and garbage traps.

A total of 70 stations were monitored in the Manila Bay region: 31 bathing beaches, 18 river mouths, 16 drainage outfalls and five rivers.

The task force has identified 44,125 informal settler families living around the bay. While relocation will still be carried out in the second phase of the rehabilitation program, 51 families living along Estero

de San Antonio de Abad have been relocated to Tala, Caloocan City.

To improve the ecosystem in the area, the DENR led the planting of fruit-bearing tree seedlings and mangrove propagules around Manila Bay.

Cimatu said the interventions they made related to the information and education campaign would further increase as the rehabilitation progresses.

"We hope that communities would imbibe the knowledge that was handed to them in ensuring the cleanliness in areas they live in," he said.



## DENR determined to win Battle of Manila Bay

**By CORY MARTINEZ**

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is more determined to win the so-called "Battle of Manila Bay," despite the extreme difficult task of rehabilitating a heavily polluted water body.

This was the commitment made by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu even as he disclosed that the Manila Bay Task Force has already done and achieved so much since the Manila Bay rehabilitation kicked off in January last year.

Cimatu, who chairs the task force, stressed that more needs must be done to achieve the ultimate goal of making it fit again for swimming and other forms of contact recreation.

"Our effort to restore Manila Bay is now in full swing and we hope to sus-

tain the momentum of restoring it to its former glory in the coming years," Cimatu said, noting that the Manila Bay rehabilitation will remain a top priority of the government until 2022.

Cimatu added that the rehabilitation is currently in its first phase, which is the cleanup and water quality monitoring. The next two phases will be relocation and rehabilitation, and education, protection and sustainment.

As of Sept. 26, the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau and the Laguna Lake Development Authority inspected 9,708 commercial establishments around Manila Bay. Of this number, 2,478 were issued notices of violations and 107 were slapped with cease and desist orders.

Since the rehabilitation started in January, close to 70,000 volunteers from the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and CALABARZON have collected

over 2.3 million kilograms of wastes through clean-ups, trash boats and garbage traps.

A total of 70 stations were monitored in the Manila Bay region—31 bathing beaches, 18 river mouths, 16 drainage outfalls and five rivers.

The MBTF has identified 44,125 informal settler families living within the Manila Bay region. While relocation will still be carried out in the second phase of rehabilitation, 51 families—specifically situated along Estero de San Antonio de Abad—were already relocated to Tala, Caloocan City.

In line with this, 547 kilometers of easements have been delineated in NCR and Central Luzon.

To improve the ecosystem in the area, the DENR led the planting of native and fruit-bearing tree seedlings and mangrove propagules.

The agency also intensi-

fied its information and education campaign (IEC) on the importance of rehabilitating Manila Bay by conducting over 120 seminars, trainings, and activities participated in by more than 8,100 individuals.

The DENR also came out with 3,574 printed materials, such as on the ongoing rehabilitation, as well as nine information campaigns and 43 updates posted on various social media platforms.

Cimatu said the interventions related to IEC will further increase as the rehabilitation progresses. "We hope that communities will imbibe the knowledge that was handed to them in ensuring the cleanliness in areas they live in," he said.

The DENR also reactivated its coordination with 12 other government agencies covered by the 2008 Supreme Court continuing mandamus for the cleanup, rehabilitation and preservation of Manila Bay.



## DENR: PENALTY SA NAGTATAPON NG BASURA TAASAN!



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## DENR: PENALTY SA NAGTATAPON NG BASURA TAASAN!

**NANINIWALA** si DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na ang pagtataas ng penalty sa mga mahuhuling nagtatapon ng basura ang isa sa nakikita nilang solusyon para magkaroon ng disiplina ang mga tao.

Ayon kay Antiporda, dapat higitan ang ipatutupad na batas hinggil sa pagtatapon ng basura upang magtagumpay ang kampanya ng pamahalaan laban sa basura.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda, undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Concerns, na sa kasalukuyan, ang penalty sa mga mahuhuling nagtatapon ng basura ay P1,000.00 gaya ng nakasaad sa Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Program na siyang nagpapatupad hinggil sa basura.

Sa isang press conference, sinabi ng naturang opisyal na dapat ding higitan ng LGUs ang nasabing batas sa pamamagitan ng pagpapatupad din ng ordinansa sa kanilang mga munisipalidad at lungsod.

Ginawa ng naturang opisyal ang pahayag matapos ang malikhang problema ng basura sa Boracay Island nitong naglaan Holiday Season matapos na hindi makolekta ang mga naturang basura.

Naniniwala rin ang DENR na kung maipatutupad ang dagdag na penalty sa mga nagtatapon ng basura, makokontrol ang problema ng basura kung hindi man malulutas.

Aniya, ang kawalan ng ilaw sa Isla ng Boracay nitong nakalipas na bagyo at kakapusan ng mga truck na humahakol ng basura ang dahilan ng pagsulpot muli ng problema sa basura sa Boracay.

Idinagdag pa nito na kung mahusay na maipatutupad ang naturang batas at magiging mabigat ang penalty, hindi magiging problema ang basura hindi lang sa Isla ng Boracay kundi maging sa ibang munisipalidad at lungsod sa bansa.

Hiningi din ni Antiporda ang tulong at suporta ng mga local government unit upang maging magtagumpay ang kampanya laban sa pagtatapon ng basura.

SANTI CELARIO at JAMES CATAPUSAN



# Rody open to reviewing Kaliwa Dam deal

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte is open to reviewing the China-funded Kaliwa Dam project deal to address concerns that it may contain provisions disadvantageous to the public.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said Duterte does not tolerate one-sided or onerous provisions in government projects.

"If somebody points out onerous provisions, the President would immediately look into it. In case (such

provision) escapes the one who was supposed to check it, he himself would look into it. You can remove the onerous provisions and push through with the contract," Panelo said at a press briefing yesterday.

The P12.2-billion Kaliwa Dam to be

built in Quezon province is one of the government projects funded by Chinese loans. Some groups are opposed to the project, claiming it would cause floods, displace communities and damage the biodiversity of the Sierra

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Madre.

Late last month, Duterte cited the need to finish the Kaliwa Dam and the Razon-led Wawa Dam projects, calling them the "last resort to have water for Manila."

He said residents to be displaced by the projects would be properly compensated and relocated.

The President also warned courts not to issue temporary restraining orders to delay the projects, claiming such decisions are being used by corrupt judges and losing bidders to extort money.

Duterte's pronouncements did not sit well with Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate, who said that the Kaliwa Dam and another China-funded project, the Chico River pump irrigation, are "onerous."

"The loan deals for the two projects, he claimed, are "disasters for the Philippines" because they were "skewed to favor the Chinese."

Asked to react to Zarate's statement, Panelo urged critics of the Kaliwa Dam deal to specify the provisions of the deal that are onerous as he pointed out that the loan for the project was scrutinized by concerned agencies before it was approved.

"First, did they say why disastrous? Did they elaborate why it is disastrous? I'm sure those who drafted the agreement know exactly whether or not those provisions would be disadvantageous to this government. So since they approved it, I think it was checked to see if it was disadvantageous or not," Panelo added.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año also urged all local government units to fast-track the processing of permits to expedite the completion of water-related projects and avert a possible water crisis this year.

He issued Memorandum Circular 2019-207 to call on local chief executives to extend support to these projects in their localities.

During the summer season last year, Metro Manila experienced the "worst water crisis" in the past years, with an estimated 52,000 households in the east zone affected by water shortage, which saw thousands of residents line up for water rations.

### Securing trust

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) is slowly securing the trust of indigenous people for some of its projects that aim to stabilize water supply for Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Years after the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) issued the certificate of pre-condition for the construction of the Angat Water Transmission Improvement Project, the memorandum of agreement among the NCIP, MWSS and the Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) was finally perfected.

The ICC was represented by the elders and chieftains of Sitio Kabayunan in Bulacan.

The certificate of pre-condition is an affirmation that the IPs and the community gave their consent and acceptance for the MWSS to apply for the free and prior informed consent (FPIC) for the AWTIP.

"Although it took a long time and process for the signing of the MOA to materialize, mostly due to overlapping tenurial rights, the important thing is that IP leaders, members of the tribe and members of the local community have clearly understood the temporary impacts of the project alongside with MWSS's recognition and respect of their rights," MWSS said in a statement.

The FPIC is considered given upon the signing of a MOA that contains the conditions and requirements, benefits as well as penalties as basis for the consent.

MWSS said the FPIC does not only mean compliance with the regulatory requirements but more importantly a recognition that the IPs have an equal spot at the table from the very beginning, with input and decision-making authority.

"Though it took a long time, what matters most is not the number of meetings or hours of conversation, but opportunities for sustained, serious, mutual listening and learning. Indigenous people and communities deserve that," it added.

The AWTIP aims to ensure the sustainable provision of water supply and mitigate the risk of a total loss of raw water supply in Metro Manila, Rizal, Bulacan and portions of Cavite.

The project aims to improve the supply of water to Metro Manila from the Angat Dam in Bulacan by building a fourth tunnel in the transmission line. The new tunnel would make the flow of dam waters to Metro Manila more efficient and address the increasing demand in the metropolis. — With Louise Maureen Simeon, Romina Cabrera



# Duterte willing to review Kaliwa Dam contract

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

**M**alacañang said President Duterte would be willing to review the government's contract for the China-funded New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam project in Rizal if anyone would point out the supposed onerous provisions in the contract.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo made the statement after Deputy Minority Leader and Bayan Muna representative Carlos Isagani Zarate expressed concern over President Duterte's insistence to proceed with the controversial project.

In his Thursday press briefing, Panelo said Duterte would comb through the contract himself if anyone would point out to him the provisions that would supposedly put the government at a disadvantage.

"That goes without saying. Ang Presidente naman basta may nag-point out sa kanya na merong onerous provision tinitignan niya agad yun (If there is someone whould would point out the onerous provision, he will immediately look into it)," he said.

"Kung nakaligtas man yun doon sa mga dapat tumingin, siya mismo titingnan niya yun (If that slipped past the people who first looked at it, then he will comb through it himself)," he added.

However, Panelo expressed belief that those who drafted the contract would have ensured that there were no onerous provisions.

"I'm sure those who drafted the agreement know exactly whether or not those provisions would be disadvantageous to this government. So since inaprubahan nila 'yan, palagay ko nagkaroon na ng checking diyang

kung disadvantageous nga o hindi (they approved it, I think they already checked if it was disadvantageous or not)," he said.

The Palace official said that the government can always remove the onerous provisions so the construction of the dam can continue.

"Pwede mo naman tanggalin yung onerous provision, tuloy mo pa rin yung kontrata (You can always remove the onerous provision and then honor the contract)," Panelo said.

On Monday, President Duterte gave the green light to the construction of the Kaliwa Dam, saying it would be Metro Manila's last resort to have water. He likewise vowed to pay and relocate the indigenous peoples who would be affected by the project.

"I can give you a little bit of an elbow room to move. Itong mga nakatira doon (Those who are living there), they are, of course, they are all natives. They are trying to delay the project by... And we need water," he said Monday.

The Kaliwa Dam project in Tanay, Rizal is facing opposition from environmental groups and local officials, saying it would displace indigenous peoples and will have an adverse effect on the environment.

Earlier, Malacañang said the government can still rescind its contract with China for the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project if it would be proven that the project is disadvantageous for the country.

The Commission on Audit (COA) has also questioned the selection of the contractor for the Kaliwa Dam project, saying the results of its bidding was in the "guise of being a competitive procurement process."



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Roni Sardiaga  
SKP  
MANILA BULLETIN  
JANUARY 3, 2020





# President decides to proceed with Kaliwa Dam

**P**resident Duterte has decided to proceed with the construction of the Kaliwa Dam in Rizal and Quezon provinces, a project that has been held back for years because of several issues raised against it.

The Haribon Foundation and other environmental groups oppose the dam for it will destroy the habitat of so many Philippine wildlife, including the endangered Philippine Hawk-Eagle, the Philippine Brown Deer, the Philippine Warty Pig, the Northern Rufous Hornbill, and the Philippine Eagle, which are said to be found nowhere else on the planet. The area was thus declared a forest reserve by Presidential Proclamation 1636 in 1977 and a portion of the watershed was declared a National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary.

The area is the ancestral home of the Dumagat-Remontados, one of the country's native tribal groups whose sacred sites, including burial grounds, will be inundated by the reservoir once the dam is built. Their community of 1,000 households in Barangay Daraitan in Tanay, Rizal, and another community of 500 households in Barangay Pagsangahan, General Nakar, Quezon, will be submerged.

There is also the Commission on Audit (COA) objection to the \$219-million contract with China Energy Engineering Corp. (CEEC) Limited. The COA has charged that its awarding violated the country's legal bidding process, including

the criteria for competitiveness.

In announcing his decision to proceed with the Kaliwa Dam project, President Duterte said it appears to be "the last resort to have water for Manila." He said the government will pay and relocate the indigenous people who will be affected by the dam project. As for the environmental issues, he said that whoever is in charge should place the proper safeguards.

The issues raised by the COA on the contract awarded to China Energy Engineering Corp. can be corrected. The COA simply wants the provisions of the law on competitive bidding to be strictly followed.

That leaves the matter of the destruction of the natural habitat of so many Philippine species of wildlife. We need assurance that the threatened species will not be lost to extinction as a price for the construction of the dam.

Kaliwa Dam will be a big part of the effort to provide sufficient water supply for Metro Manila's burgeoning population. But even if we start now, its construction now, it will be completed only in 2023.

Even more sources of water will be needed and there are already plans for the renewed use of the old Wawa Dam, drawing water from Laguna de Bay, and drilling new deep wells. We may also have to resort to the process of desalinating seawater, a process that Israel has already developed for its desert areas.





BW FILE PHOTO



# Palace will review Kaliwa deal f onerous provisions found

PRESIDENT Rodrigo R. Duterte will review contracts for the Kaliwa Dam project in Quezon should any questionable provisions emerge, his spokesman said.

On Thursday, Salvador S. Panelo told reporters at a briefing, "*Ang Presidente, basta may nag-point out sa kanya na merong onerous provision tinitignan niya agad'yun* (The President will review any contract immediately if someone points out onerous provisions)."

Bayan Muna Representative Carlos Isagani T. Zarate said it was "disastrous" for Mr. Duterte to proceed with the project despite irregularities in the agreements. Mr. Zarate

said that the loan deals for the Kaliwa Dam and the Chico River Irrigation Pump Project are mostly in favor of Chinese parties.

Mr. Panelo said that the legislator failed to identify any specific onerous provisions.

"Did they elaborate why it was disastrous? And number two, what are those onerous provisions... They have to specify," Mr. Panelo said.

He added, "I'm sure those who drafted the agreement know exactly whether or not those provisions will be disadvantageous to this government."

The agreements for both the Kaliwa Dam and the Chico River Irrigation Pump project

are worth P12.2 billion and P3.2 billion, respectively. Mr. Zarate said that the contract states that any dispute will be settled by a Chinese tribunal.

Mr. Duterte said earlier this week that he is pushing for the construction of both Kaliwa Dam and Wawa Dam in Rizal, calling both measures a "last resort" to address Metro Manila's water supply issues. He also warned courts not to issue stoppage orders for the Kaliwa Dam's construction, amid objections to the project by indigenous people and environmental organizations. — **Gillian M. Cortez**



## Duterte willing to review Kaliwa Dam deal – Palace

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte is willing to review the Kaliwa Dam deal, Malacañang said on Thursday.

*"Oo (Yes). That goes without saying. Ang Presidente naman, basta may nag-point out sa kanya na merong onerous provision tinitingnan kaagad iyon. Kung nakaligtas man iyon*

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## Duterte

*doon sa mga dapat tumingin, siya mismo titingnan niya iyan* (The President reviews contracts when somebody claims these have onerous provisions. If these were overlooked by those who made first scrutiny, he himself takes a look)," Palace spokesman Salvador Panelo said in a press briefing.

*"Eh kung makita ni Presidenteng one sided, 'di pareho rin nung sa water, 'di ba, ayaw niya ng onerous provisions* (If the President sees that it is one-sided, it's the same as the water contracts. He loathes onerous provisions)," Panelo said.

He was referring to the contracts with Manila Water Co, Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc., which the President slammed for being onerous.

The China-funded Kaliwa Dam project will be constructed in Rizal and Quezon provinces. It seeks to boost the water supply in Metro Manila.

The President had said that the construction of the Kaliwa Dam and the Wawa Dam would help ease the water problem in Metro Manila.

"I will order them to go ahead and we will pay the natives and we will relocate them," he said in a speech in Digos, Davao del Sur on December 30. Duterte also warned courts not to issue restraining orders against the dam project.

"Do not make it to the point na *sabihin ko* (that I will say) 'ignore them,'" he added.

Some groups have opposed the Kaliwa Dam project, saying it would displace indigenous peoples and flood vast areas.

**REINA C. TOLENTINO**



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mo titingnan niya 'yun," he added.

However, Panelo expressed belief that those who drafted the contract would have ensured that there were no onerous provisions.

"I'm sure those who drafted the agreement know exactly whether or not those provisions would be disadvantageous to this government. So since in-aprubahan nila 'yan, palagay ko nagkaroon na ng checking diyan kung disadvantageous nga o hindi," he said.

The Palace official said that the government can always remove the onerous provisions so the construction of the dam can continue.

"Pwede mo naman tanggalin yung onerous provision, tuloy mo pa rin yung kontrata," Panelo said.

On Monday, President Duterte green-lit the construction of the Kaliwa Dam, saying it would be Metro Manila's last resort to have water. He likewise vowed to pay and relocate the indigenous peoples who would be affected by the project.

"I can give you a little bit of an

elbow room to move. Itong mga nakatira doon, they are, of course, they are all natives. They are trying to delay the project by... And we need water," he said Monday.

"This will be the last resort to have water for Manila. I will order them to go ahead and we will pay the natives and we will relocate them," he added.

The Kaliwa Dam project in Tanay, Rizal, is facing opposition from environmental groups and local officials, saying it would displace indigenous peoples and will have an adverse effect on the environment.

Earlier, Malacañang said the government can still rescind its contract with China for the dam project if it would be proven that the project is disadvantageous for the country.

The Commission on Audit (CoA) has also questioned the selection of the contractor for the Kaliwa Dam project, saying the results of its bidding was in the "guise of being a competitive procurement process."

**(Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)**



## EDITORIAL

### President decides to proceed with Kaliwa Dam

**PRESIDENT** Duterte has decided to proceed with the construction of the Kaliwa Dam in Rizal and Quezon provinces, a project that has been held back for years because of several issues raised against it.

The Haribon Foundation and other environmental groups oppose the dam for it will destroy the habitat of so many Philippine wildlife, including the endangered Philippine Hawk-Eagle, the Philippine Brown Deer, the Philippine Warty Pig, the Northern Rufous Hornbill, and the Philippine Eagle, which are said to be found nowhere else on the planet. The area was thus declared a forest reserve by Presidential Proclamation 1636 in 1977 and a portion of the watershed was declared a National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary.

The area is the ancestral home of the Dumagat-Remontados, one of the country's native tribal groups whose sacred sites, including burial grounds, will be inundated by the reservoir once the dam is built. Their community of 1,000 households in barangay Daraitan in Tanay, Rizal, and another community of 500 households in barangay Pagsangahan, General Nakar, Quezon, will be submerged.

There is also the Commission on Audit (COA) objection to the \$219-million contract with China Energy Engineering Corp. (CEEC) Limited. The COA has charged that its awarding violated the country's legal bidding process, including the criteria for competitiveness.

In announcing his decision to proceed with the Kaliwa Dam project, President Duterte said it appears to be "the last resort to have water for Manila." He said the government will pay and relocate the indigenous people who will be affected by the dam project. As for the environmental issues, he said that whoever is in charge should place the proper safeguards.

The issues raised by the COA on the contract awarded to China Energy Engineering Corp. can be corrected. The COA simply wants the provisions of the law on competitive bidding to be strictly followed.

That leaves the matter of the destruction of the natural habitat of so many Philippine species of wildlife. We need assurance that the threatened species will not be lost to extinction as a price for the construction of the dam.

Kaliwa Dam will be a big part of the effort to provide sufficient water supply for Metro Manila's burgeoning population. But even if we start now, its construction now, it will be completed only in 2023.

Even more sources of water will be needed and there are already plans for the renewed use of the old Wawa Dam, drawing water from Laguna de Bay, and drilling new deep wells. We may also have to resort to the process of desalinating seawater, a process that Israel has already developed for its desert areas.



## EDITORIAL

### Pangulo, nagpasyang ituloy ang Kaliwa Dam

**N**AGPASYA si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na ituloy ang konstruksiyon ng Kaliwa Dam sa mga lalawigan ng Rizal at Quezon, isang proyekto na ilang taon nang hindi matuluy-tuloy dahil sa maraming isyung ibinabato dito.

Tinututulan ng Haribon Foundation at ng iba pang environmental groups ang dam dahil sisirain nito ang tirahan ng napakaraming Philippine wildlife, kabilang na ang endangered Philippine Hawk-Eagle, ang Philippine Brown Deer, ang Philippine Warty Pig, ang Northern Rufous Hornbill, at ang Philippine Eagle, na sinasabing dito lamang sa atin makikita. Ang lugar ay idineklarang forest reserve sa Presidential Proclamation 1636 noong 1977 at isang bahagi ng watershed ay idineklarang National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Ang lugar ay ancestral home ng mga Dumagat-Remontado, isa sa mga katutubong tribal groups sa bansa na ang mga sagradong lugar, kabilang ang mga libingan, ay malulubog sa tubig ng reservoir sa oras na maitayo ang dam. Ang kanilang komunidad ng 1,000 kabahayan sa barangay Daraitan sa Tanay, Rizal, at isa pa ng 500 kabahayan sa barangay Pagsangahan, General Nakar, Quezon, ay malulubog.

Nariyan din ang pagtutol ng Commission on Audit (COA) sa \$219-milyong kontrata sa China Energy Engineering Corp. (CEEC) Limited. Nag-akusa ang COA na nilabag ng paggawad dito ng kontrata ang legal bidding process ng bansa, kabilang na ang criteria for competitiveness.

Sa pag-aanunsiyo sa kanyang desisyon na ituloy ang Kaliwa Dam project, sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na lumalabas na ito ang "last resort to have water for Manila." Sinabi niya na babayaran at ililipat ng gobyerno ang mga katutubong mamamayan na maaapektuhan ng dam project. Tungkol naman sa mga isyu sa kapaligiran, sinabi niya na ang sino mang namamahala ay dapat na maglatag ng proper safeguards.

Ang mga isyung itinaas ng COA sa kontratang iginawad sa China Energy Engineering Corp. ay maaaring itama. Nais lamang ng COA na istriktong masunod ang mga probisyon ng batas sa competitive bidding.

Itinitira nito ang isyu ng pagkasira ng natural habitat ng napakaraming Philippine species of wildlife. Kailangan natin ng kasiguraduhan na ang mga nanganganib na species ay hindi mauubos bilang kabayaran sa pagtatayo ng dam.

Ang Kaliwa Dam ay magiging malaking bahagi ng pagsisikap na magkaloob ng sapat na suplay ng tubig sa lumolobong populasyon sa Metro Manila. Ngunit kahit na magsimula tayo ngayon, makukumpleto lamang ito sa 2023.

Kailangan ang mas marami pang mapagkukunan ng tubig at mayroon nang mga plano para sa muling paggamit ng lumang Wawa Dam, paghigop ng tubig mula sa Laguna de Bay, at paggawa ng mga bagong balon. Maaaring kakailanganin na rin nating gawin ang proseso ng desalinating seawater, isang proseso na ginagawa na sa Israel para sa mga disyertong lugar nito.





## GOTCHA JARIUS BONDOC



### Was Duterte told of alternative to contentious Kaliwa dam?

**I**nstead of a 73-meter-high dam that will dispossess thousands of tribe folk and despoil the Sierra Madres, a seven-meter weir can suffice. Undisruptive, the latter is cheaper and quicker to put up. No need for a Chinese loan at stiff terms; a Japanese firm will build it at no cost to government. It will urgently solve Mega Manila's need for alternative water source.

The weir was proposed two administrations ago in 2009. The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Authority had given the go signal. For unknown reasons later MWSS boards shelved it. As water began to fall short, Japanese proponent Global Utility Construction Corp. tried since 2017 to get an appointment with President Rody Duterte to present its plan anew. Cabinet members were approached, as they are responsible for giving the President full info from which to decide for the greatest good.

Has the firm been given the chance to be heard in Malacañang?

The question begs asking as Duterte sounds misinformed. He is saying that a dam is "the last resort" to avert crisis. Time is running out. In three months there will be another summer water shortage, like last April. If taps dry up, residents of the capital region will blame Duterte for inaction. Aides who have his and the people's best interest at heart must brief him at once.

Steel and concrete, the weir will be spanned upstream of Kaliwa River in Quezon. Overflow safely will be diverted onto a water treatment plant. Construction will take 36 months. Forests and ancestral domains will be preserved. With 550 million liters per day (MLD), the build-transfer-operate project adequately will augment the old La Mesa reservoir. Concessionaires will draw water to distribute – under strict MWSS regulation.

A dam will take 56 months to erect. It will evict 400 Dumagat families from the site, and imperil 6,000 tribal homes with flooding. The Tinipak white rock natural formations, falls and park will be wiped out. Perched on the Infanta Fault, the dam can break and wash away General Nakar town below. Fifty-two NGOs and religious leaders oppose any environment clearance, especially if not by the affected folks' free informed choice. All those for 600 MLD.

Dam construction will be P12.5 billion. There are hidden costs, however. A 12-km access road alone to operate it will take P6.2 billion. Mega Manila's two concessionaires

must build separate water treatments, another P40 billion, in Tanay and Teresa, Rizal. That's P58.7 billion in all, that taxpayers nationwide and consumers in Mega Manila must repay. The P12.5-billion China loan terms include unconstitutional surrender of Philippine patrimonial assets, like offshore oil and gas, in case of default. China can dictate the construction pace and even force a default through the Chinese builder. State auditors had discovered bid rigging among three Chinese companies.

The weir will cost P21.7 billion. Included is the treatment facility and a 16-km aqueduct, less invasive than the dam's 23 km. GUCC will advance the cost, to be recovered from concessionaires' sales.

#### End of home cooking

Have you noticed too? People are home-cooking less these days. More often they eat or order out. Many restaurants, chain or specialty, now deliver. Independent motorcycle deliverers even hang out nearby. Convenience as the new currency is very evident in dining. No need to work the kitchen then wash plate and pans, so more time for work or leisure.

Global stats may apply to local trends. Like, in the US millennials frequent eateries and snack bars 30 percent more than any other generation. Elsewhere persons aged 25-40 spend less time than their olds preparing food at home. They're in the kitchen only 13 minutes a day or, summed up, an hour less each week than their Gen-X seniors. In groceries they buy more prepared meals, pasta, and sweets. Less millennials, 64 percent, claim adeptness in cooking than Gen X, 72 percent, and Baby Boomers, 76 percent. Many of them are unfamiliar with kitchenware, like different kinds and uses of knives or the garlic press.

In Philippine cities kiosks abound selling brown-bagged meals. San Miguel Corp.'s Magnolia division is gearing up to retail favorite Filipino viands like adobo and mechado, nilaga and sinigang, pares and prito. Grain silos, contract-grown broilers, hogs and cows, and sales outlets are being readied. Meals ready-to-eat will be another SMC innovation, says president Ramon S. Ang. Other biggies expectedly will follow suit.

Time was when home-cooking supposedly was beneficial for five reasons: cheaper, cleaner, healthier, tastier, satisfying. Robot chefs, bulk discounted commissaries, sanitary mass production, nutrition fact disclosures, handy containers and utensils, and home deliveries, among others, have overtaken the five pluses. Why bother to cook at home when the celebrity chef can whip up a diet-feast of mushroom sisig, cashew nut cheese, and cauliflower rice – fast, affordable, suited exactly to one's palate, with certified ingredients. The family or gang ends up happy with the quality time, so long as not stalled by traffic.

\* \* \*

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

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





## Kontrata ng Kaliwa Dam project bubusisiin ni Duterte

Handang i-review ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang kontrata sa Kaliwa Dam project kung ito ay hindi papabor sa interes ng mga Pilipino.

Inihayag ito ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo kasunod ng pahayag ng Makabayan Bloc na may mga 'onerous' provision ang kontrata sa proyekto na ikalulugi umano ng gobyerno.

Sinabi ni Panelo na tiyak na hindi papayag si Pangulong Duterte na ituloy ang proyekto kapag nakitang dehado ang taumbayan sa kontrata, gaya ng natuklasan nito sa kontrata ng Maynilad at Manila Water.

"Eh kung makita ni Presidenteng one sided, 'di pareho rin nu'ng sa water, 'di ba, ayaw niya ng onerous provisions," ani Panelo.

Mas mainam aniyang ipaliwanag ni Congressman Isagani Zarate kung saang bahagi ng kontrata sa Kaliwa Dam project ang ikalulugi ng mga Pilipino para matugunan agad ito ng gobyerno.

"First, did they explain why disastrous? Did they elaborate why it's disastrous? Number two, what are those onerous provisions? Like what? They have to specify so that we can respond accordingly," dagdag ni Panelo.

Naniniwala ang kalihim na batid ng mga bumalangkas sa kontrata kung ito ay dehado ba o hindi para sa gobyerno at tiyak aniyang tsinek ito mabuti bago inaprubahan. **(Aileen Taliping)**



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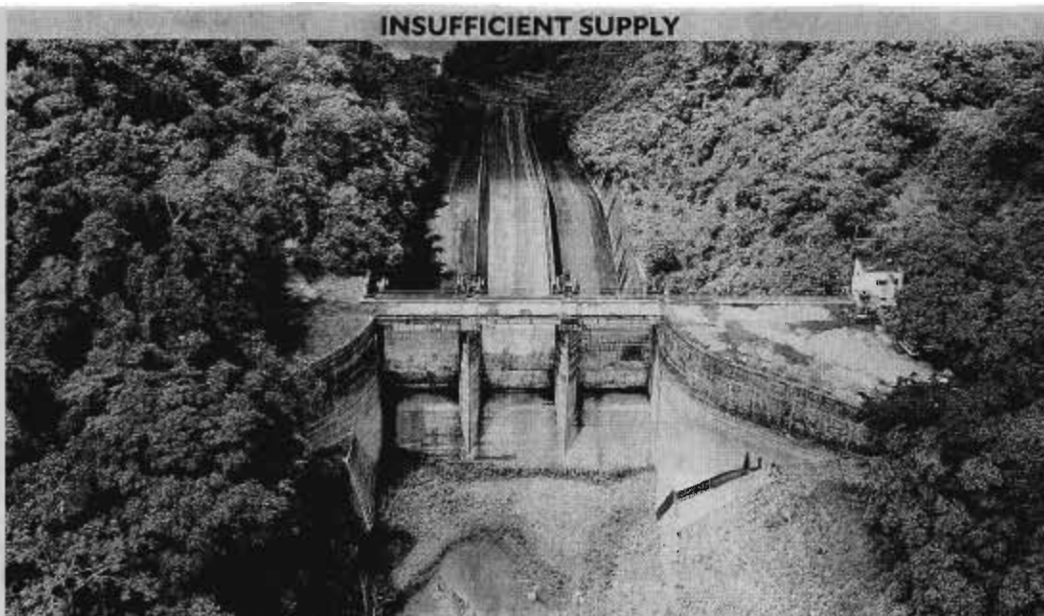
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**INSUFFICIENT SUPPLY**

**NO RUSHING WATER** In a file photo taken in June, the spillway of Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan, remains silent as its water level continues to be below normal due to lack of rainfall. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

## ANGAT DAM WATER LEVEL STILL BELOW NORMAL

By **Jhesset O. Enano**  
@JhessetEnanoINQ

While the water level in Angat Dam had slightly risen at the start of the year, it still fell short of its normal operating level by end of 2019, which meant that reduced water supply in Metro Manila may still persist in the coming months.

As of Thursday morning, the elevation in Angat's watershed was recorded at 202.6 meters above sea level, up slightly by 0.89 m from the previous day.

The increase had been attributed to the rains brought by Typhoon "Ursula" (international name: Phanfone) at the end of 2019.

However, it was still unable to raise the normal high water operating level to 212 m, which would ensure sufficient water supply for Metro Manila and its adjacent provinces.

Since September last year, the National Water Resources Board has allocated 40 cubic meters per second (cms), or 3,450 million liters per day, of raw water to the Metropolitan

Waterworks and Sewerage System, which distributes the supply to private concessionaires Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc.

This is lower than the normal allocation of 40 cms for domestic use.

Households in Metro Manila had been reeling from rotational water interruptions since the last quarter of 2019.

In March, residents across the metro suffered from bone-dry taps after Angat's water level breached critical levels. INQ



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## Angat Dam's water level rises by 1 meter

By RAMON EFREN LAZARO

MALOLOS - Monsoon rains continue to fill Angat Dam.

Data from the Bulacan provincial disaster risk reduction and management office (PDRRMO) showed that the dam's water level rose by one meter yesterday morning compared to Wednesday's 201.72 meters.

Citing the advisory of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration that cloudy skies with rains would be experienced in Bulacan until Monday, the PDRRMO said the water elevation in the dam is expected to continue to rise.

Crispulo Bautista, Department of Agriculture Central Luzon office director, said no cloud-seeding operations are being undertaken in the watershed of Angat Dam despite a pending request from the Department of Agriculture.

Sevillo David Jr., executive director of the National Water Resources Board, had earlier said cloud-seeding to be conducted in coordination with the Bureau of Soils and Water Management is on standby.

David said water allocation for Metro Manila consumers as well as irrigation of Bulacan and Pampanga farms could be adjusted if the water level in the dam would continue to rise.

The ideal mark is 212 meters.

Water supply for Metro Manila's consumption remains at 40 cubic meters per second, six cms less than its normal allocation. Water for irrigation is at 10 cms, 20 cms less than the regular allocation.



## Water supply cuts on despite rains

By MJ Blancaflor

WATER service interruptions will likely continue in Metro Manila because the recent rains have not raised the water level at the Angat Dam, the National Water Resources Board said Thursday.

Angat Dam, the region's main water source, was at 202.6 meters as of 6 a.m., said state weather bureau below the 212-meter normal high water mark.

In an interview over radio dzMM,

NWRB Executive Director Sevillio David Jr. said water supply would have to be managed until summer, until the rains come.

Parts of Metro Manila have been experiencing water service interruptions since October 2019.

On Thursday, the Palace said President Rodrigo Duterte would stay true to his word and slap syndicated estafa charges against Manila Water and Maynilad over their "onerous" water concession deals with the government. *Next page*

## Water...

From A1

"If the President says something, he will do it," Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo told Palace reporters.

In his speech Monday, President Duterte said the two utility firms qualify for syndicated estafa.

"If they make a mistake, those morons, I will really jail them. You see, they do not react to any insult from me. For sure, syndicated estafa," Duterte said while he was in North Cotabato.

"They were only the distributor but as it turned out, they were the richest people as if they own water," the President added.

He was expected to make an announcement on Jan. 6 regarding the matter.

The Department of Justice earlier said there were onerous provisions in the 1997 water deal.

Duterte has also threatened to file economic sabotage, plunder and graft charges against the people behind the concession deals and to order a military takeover of water distribution if the problem is not resolved.

The President earlier expressed his approval for the construction of the China-funded Kaliwa Dam and Razon-led Wawa Dam, saying the structures would be the "last resort" to stabilize water supply in Metro Manila.

Panelo said Duterte is willing to review the Kaliwa Dam project loan deal if indeed there are onerous provisions in the contract.

"If he sees that the contract is one-sided just like the water concession agreement, he will review it since he does not like onerous provisions," Panelo said.

This came after Bayan Muna Party-list Rep. Carlos Zarate claimed that the Kaliwa Dam project has provisions which supposedly put the government at a disadvantage.

"If somebody points out onerous provisions, the President will look at it," Panelo said.



## Water Board eyes higher allocation for Metro

THE National Water Resources Board (NWRB) will decide this week whether or not to raise raw water allocation from Angat Dam, Metro Manila's main source of water supply.

"We are now reviewing if there could be slight adjustment to 42 [m3] (cubic meters per second)," Seville David Jr., NWRB executive director, told *The Manila Times*.

The decision will come out "within this week," David said, adding there would also be raw water supply for irrigation in Bulacan and Pampanga.

For January, the agency retained the allocation for the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) at 40 m3 even if Angat Dam's water level has slightly improved. The allocation for irrigation was also raised to 10 m3 this month.

As of Thursday, Angat's water level was at 202.60 meters.

Amid the improvement in Angat's water level, the two concessionaires Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. said their customers would continue to experience little to no water supply for an indefinite period of time.

"As long as we are getting reduced allocation, the rotational service interruptions will remain in place. This is also to better prepare for the peak demand months this year," Manila Water Communications Planning and Tactical Development Manager Dittie Galang said in a text message to *The Manila Times*.

In a phone interview, Maynilad Corporate Communications Head Jennifer Rufo told *The Manila Times* that rotating water supply would remain "until they (NWRB) can increase that to the normal level, which is 48 cubic meters per second."

**JORDEENE B. LAGARE**

# KRISIS SA TUBIG TULOY PA NWRB nangangamba

BASAHI SA PAHINA 9

## NWRB nangangamba

# KRISIS SA TUBIG TULOY PA

**P**INANGANGAMBAHAN ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ang pagpapatuloy ng krisis sa suplay ng tubig ngayong taon.

Ito ay makaraang hindi maabot ang target level ng tubig sa Angat Dam bago magtapos ang 2019.

Ayon kay NWRB Executive Director Sevilto David Jr., kailangang mapagkasya ang tubig hanggang sa tag-init at bago sumapit ang tag-ulan.

Dahil mababa pa sa normal level ang tubig sa Angat Dam, posible aniyang magpatuloy pa ang hindi normal na serbisyo sa publiko.

Magugunitang sa pinakahul-ing tala ng PAGASA Hydrology Division ay nasa 202.6 meters pa lamang ang lebel ng tubig sa dam na malayo pa sa 212 meters na normal



level nito.

Bunga ng pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam ay nagpatupad ng rotational water interruption ang

mga water concessionaire sa Metro Manila noong 2019 na patuloy na nararanasan ng ilang kabahayan sa kasalukuyan.

DWIZ 882





## **Kakapusan sa suplay ng tubig, patuloy**

Posibleng patuloy na maramdaman ng mga taga-Metro Manila ang kakapusan sa suplay ng tubig hanggang summer season.

Ayon ito sa National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na nagsabing dahil ito sa hindi nakasapat ang ulan na naranasan nitong mga nagdaang araw para makarating sa Angat dam watershed para magpataas sana sa water level ng naturang dam.

Ayon kay NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr. pumalo sa 202.6 meters kahapon ng umaga ang water level sa Angat dam, mas mababa ito sa 212-meter normal high water level.

Bunga nito, sinabi ni David na mahihirapan silang magbigyan ng sapat na suplay ng alokasyong tubig ang Metro

Manila sa normal allocation na 46 cubic meters per second mula sa kasalukuyang 40 cubic meters per second.

"Kailangan po nating manage ang supply para mapaabot, hanggang sa summer po, bago po ang mga pag-ulan. Kaya sa ngayon po, hindi pa natin maibabalik sa normal na alokasyon, posible po talagang magpatuloy iyong hindi normal na serbisyo ng tubig para sa kababayan po natin," pahayag ni David.

Mula October 2019 ay patuloy na isinagawa ang rotational water service interruptions sa Metro Manila dahil sa mababang water level ng Angat dam, ang dam na nagsusuplay ng 90 percent ng tubig sa kalakhang Maynila.  
*(Angie dela Cruz)*



## DILG to LGUs: Fast-track permits for water projects

TO help avert a possible water crisis this year, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is urging all local government units (LGUs) to fast track the processing of the necessary permits for water-related projects to expedite their completion and enhance water security.

"Malaking perhuwisyo para sa ating mga kababayan kapag kulang o walang tubig. Kaya inaatasan ko ang ating mga LGUs na paspasan ang pagpoproseso ng mga kinakailangang permit para sa mga water projects upang maiwasan ang kakulangan sa tubig," says DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año.

In Memorandum Circular No. 2019-207, Año also called on provincial governors, city and municipal mayors to make the necessary preparations and extend support to start the water-related projects in their localities such as human resources, access roads to location, and availability of materials.

"Sa mga panahong ito na marami sa ating mga kababayan ang nakakaranas na ng kakulangan sa tubig, kailangan na

nating magtulungan at mabilis na aksyunan na ng mga LGUs ang mga water permits para masimulan at matapos na ang mga water projects sa kanilang lugar," says Año.

Section 17 of the Local Government Code mandates LGUs to exercise necessary and appropriate powers and discharge functions for the efficient and effective provision of basic services and facilities.

In March last year, Metro Manila residents experienced the worst water crisis for the past several years as around 52,000 households in the east zone of the metropolis alone had to endure long lines to fetch water from firetrucks and water tanks.

"Kung hindi tayo kiki-los ngayon, lalala pa ang problema natin sa tubig at tayo lang din ang mahihirapan sa bandang huli," says Año.

The DILG Secretary also encourages the general public to partake in their respective communities' initiatives to effectively manage water consumption.

Magsilbing paalala sa atin lahat na hindi lamang

nakasalalay sa gobyerno ang seguridad ng supply ng tubig. Responsibilidad ng bawat isa sa atin ang magtipid sa paggamit ng tubig," said Año.

DILG has been a constant advocate and stakeholder for water conservation especially amid the challenges that Metro Manila faced earlier this year.

Moreover, the DILG together in partnership with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), National Water Resource Board (NWRB), and the Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) launched "Oplan Tubig Para sa Kinabukasan" late November this year, in a bid to target social media users through a water-saving campaign.

The campaign boasts the hashtag, "#1LTubig-Challenge" or Isang Litrong Tubig Challenge encourages individuals to use one liter of water in as many activities as they could through careful recycling and usage.

Jun I. Legaspi



**BAGONG-BAGONG** taon, bumulaga sa atin ang mga gabundok na basura kahit saan.

Sa pambansang parke gaya ng Rizal Park o Luneta, grabe ang napulot na basura, trak-trak.

Halos ganito rin ang sa iba pang mga parke, pampublikong garahe, kalsada at marami pang iba.

#### ANG MGA BASURA

Kung titingnan ang mga basurang iniwan ng mga kababayan natin ngayong Kapaskuhan, nariryan ang mga plastic na pang-inumin, pangkape, kutsara, tinidor, stirrer, straw, baunan na styrofoam, karton para sa pizza, balat ng saging, balat at buto ng mga prutas, karton na ginawang highaan, diyaryo, tarpaulin, bote ng softdrinks at alak na ginawa pang orenola at ihian, basahan at marami pang iba.

Ito'y para sa mga lugar na ginawang pasyalan ng maraming tao.

May mga lugar ding nagkalat ang mga buhay na paputok, mga papel at stick ng mga paputok, mga karton at plastic na labi ng mga fountain at marami pang iba.

'Yung iba, habang tumatakbo ang kanilang mga sasakyan, may naghahagis ng mga labi ng pinagkainan gaya ng mga karton, plastic bottle, balat din ng saging, supot-supot na basura, mga nabubulok na basura at marami pang iba.

#### KULTURA O KAUGALIAN

Dito idinirini ng ULTIMATUM na malaking parte ng problema sa basura ang kultura o kaugalian o kaisipan.

Una ang kultura o kaugalian o kaisipan na normal ang pagkakalat ng kahit anong bagay kahit saan.

Dito hindi namamamayan ng tao na normal na ang pagtatapon ng basura kahit saan.

Kung naiisip naman ng tao na may umiiral na batas at may mga bantay o tagapatupad ng nasabing batas o may CCTV kaya, gagawa at gagawa ng paraan ang makalat na tao na itapon ang kanyang basura kahit saan.

'Yun bang == "kung wala ang pusa, naglala-



## BASURA KAHIT SAAN

ro ang daga" ang peg.

Anak ng tokwa, ayaw ibulsa o iwi at itapon sa tamang tapunan ng basura ang mga hawak o nagawang basura.

Kitang-kita rin ang bagay na ito sa mga local government unit na istriktito sa pagpapatupad ng kalinisan.

Halimbawa sa mga pampublikong garahe ng sasakyan sa Marikina.

Disiplinado ang mga Marikenyos pero ang galing sa ibang mga bayan na pumupunta sa Marikina ang nagtatapon ng basura pagdating nila sa garahe ng mga sasakyan.

#### NABUBULOK AT 'DI NABUBULOK

Matagal na ang mga batas laban sa basura gaya ng paghihiwalay ng nabubulok at hindi nabubulok.

Pero kahit kasing-tanda na ni Magellan ang mga batas, halos walang sumusunod at nagpapatupad nito.

Wala talaga sa isipan ng tao ang mga batas na ito.

Medyo nagigising at naaalimpungatan nang konti ang mga mamamayan kung may mga istriktong LGU na ayaw pumulot ng mga basura na halo-halo.

Madaling makita ang mga nabubulok at hindi nabubulok at madali talagang gawin ang paghihiwalay ng mga ito.

Sakaling mamomroblema ka sa kung nabubulok o hindi nabubulok ang basura, pwede kang kumonsulta sa barangay.

Peró ang problema umano, walang lalagyan at kung merong lalagyan, tinatangay umano ng mga trak ng basura para gawin naman kalakal o inangkin na mismo ng mga basurero.

#### GOBYERNO ANG PROBLEMA

Sa Metro Manila, marami ang trak ng basura.

Araw-araw na may umiikot na trak para maghakot ng basura at may mga iskedyul para sa nabubulok at hindi nabubulok.

At dahil may malaking pondo ang karaniwan sa mga LGU ng Metro Manila, hindi ganong problema kung saan sila nagtatapon ng basura.

Ang problema ay sa mga lalawigan.

Kakaunti ang mga trak ng basura at marami sa mga barangay ang walang trak ng basura.

Kaya naman, minsan sa isang linggo o dalawang linggo ang pag-ikot ng mga trak ng basura.

Kapag may nabubulok, paano itatapon ito?

Eh, bawal naman ang magsunog at may mga multa na may kulong pa sa mga violator sa batas laban sa pagsusunog.

Hayun, kapag inilagay sa kalsada, ikinalalat naman ng mga pusa at asong gala saka ipapasok sa mga bahay-bahay na roon sila nakatira.

Anak ng ...

#### REMEDYO

Malinaw na gobyerno at mamamayan mismo ang problema sa pagkalat ng basura kahit saan.

At dapat na mag-isip ang dalawa ng mga paraan para maayos na maitapon ang mga basura.

Halimbawa, kaya kapos ang mga LGU ng trak ng basura ay dahil sa kakulangan ng pondo.

Ano ang gagawin ng mamamayan kung may ordinansa na mangolekta ang mga LGU ng salapi para sa pambili ng garbage truck para magkolekta at magtapon ng basura?

Paano naman ang pagkukusa ng mga mamamayan na sumunod sa batas ng paghihiwalay ng nabubulok at hindi nabubulok na basura at hindi basta pagtatapon ng basura kahit saan?

oOo

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparingating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.



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**National Parks Development Committee workers collect garbage from Rizal Park yesterday. Officials said the volume of garbage hauled from the park after the New Year's Eve celebration was less than the 60 metric tons collected during the Christmas revelry.**

EDO GUMBAN



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**Balita**

ANG MANUNULUNGANG PAMAYONGANG TAZAL OG SA BANSA

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**BASURA SA LUNETA** Anim na truck ng basura ang nahakot ng mga tauhan ng Department of Public Safety (DPS) sa Rizal Park matapos ang pagsalubong sa Bagong Taon, nitong Miyerkules.

**ALI VICOY**



# Traslacion takes different route this year

By REY GALUPO

The route of this year's *Traslacion* of the Black Nazarene from Quirino Grandstand to the Minor Basilica in Quiapo would be slightly different, Quiapo Church representatives said, as the bridges usually used in the procession are all under construction.

Monsignor Hernando Coronel said this year's procession would traverse Ayala Bridge instead of Jones Bridge, as recommended by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Past processions used Quezon, MacArthur and Jones bridges.

The organizers said the *Traslacion's* route would be as follows: Quirino Grandstand, Katigbak Road, Finance Road through Ayala Boulevard, Ayala Bridge, Palanca Street, Quezon Boulevard, Arlegui Street, Fraternal Street, Vergara

Street, Duque de Alba Street, Castillejos Street, Farnecio Street, Arlegui Street, Nepomuceno Street, Concepcion Aguila Street, Carcer Street, Hidalgo through Plaza del Carmen, Bilibid Viejo through Gil Puyat, J.P. de Guzman Street, Hidalgo Street, Arlegui Street, Quezon Boulevard, Palanca Street and finally Villalobos through Plaza Miranda.

Earlier, a ranking police official told **The STAR** that the rope attached to the "andas" will not be used "to avoid the devotees from crowding the statue and they will not be allowed to ascend the carriage," but church representatives denied this.

Last Tuesday, thousands of devotees joined the traditional thanksgiving procession, which marked the start of the nine-day novena to the Black Nazarene.

At least 10,000 policemen

were joined by personnel from the Joint Task Force in the National Capital Region, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine Coast Guard and Task Force Quiapo in maintaining security during the procession.

Last year, about 1.3 million devotees joined the 21-hour-long procession. The Manila Police District has started clearing the areas along the route of the procession even as it warned against drinking in public and obstruction.

## Security threat

A source said authorities still anticipate threats this year.

"We have intelligence people joining the procession and we have jammer devices that will disrupt signal if there is any attempt to use an improvised explosive device," the police official said.

He said the discussion be-

tween the stakeholders focused on security preparations and the procession route.

Waste and pollution watch group EcoWaste Coalition, meanwhile, urged devotees to shun plastic disposables for a cleaner celebration.

The EcoWaste Coalition underlined the importance of cutting the consumption and disposal of single-use plastics in light of the efforts of Manila Mayor Isko Moreno to clean up the capital city.

"Pervasive littering has tainted each and every reenactment of the *Traslacion* from Luneta to Quiapo as if leaving rubbish on the ground is an ethical and legal thing to do," said Jove Benosa, Zero Waste campaigner, EcoWaste Coalition.

"Littering goes against the church teaching calling on the faithful to care for creation, including marine life that is

seriously threatened by plastic pollution," he said.

Manila City Ordinance 7866, Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Regulation No. 96-009 as amended by Regulation No. 99-006 and Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, explicitly prohibit and penalize littering, Benosa added.

Republic Act 9003, in particular, punishes violators upon conviction with a fine of P300 to P1,000 and community service of one to 15 days, or both.

Last year's "pahalik" and procession of the revered image of the Black Nazarene yielded 47 truckloads of trash equivalent to 160 tons, according to the MMDA.

Among the items discarded along the six-kilometer processional route were single-use plastic bags, bottles, cups and plates, as well as polystyrene food containers, cigarette butts

and bamboo skewers.

To reduce the volume of rubbish thrown on streets and sidewalks in next week's *Traslacion*, the EcoWaste Coalition appealed to all Black Nazarene devotees, vendors and fiesta organizers and volunteers to avoid consuming products in single-use plastics and dispose of trash properly.

To vendors, the group said they should refrain from selling snacks and drinks in plastic disposables and be responsible for their discards.

The group said fiesta organizers should not use plastic bags or plastic *labo* and *banderitas* or street garlands.

Benosa also advised the public to prevent and reduce all forms of fiesta waste and never leave rubbish on the road, sidewalk, street corner, park or plant box.

- With Rhodina Villanueva





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# Boracay stinks as trash mounts

**DENR, Malay LGU appeal for understanding, say services disrupted by typhoon**

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.  
and Jheset O. Enano  
@Team\_Inquirer

ILOILO CITY—Typhoon “Ursula” (international name: Phanfone) swept through the Visayas on Christmas Eve, leaving Boracay Island with damaged houses and buildings, flooded communities and power outages that also led to fuel shortage due to the use of generator sets.

But Boracay, which relies heavily on tourism for its economy, is facing another problem as uncollected garbage starts to pile up on street corners, by the roadsides and in other areas on the resort island in Aklan province.

Residents and business operators have taken to social media to air their anger over the mounting trash amid a peak tourist season when hotels and resorts are booked.

“Outrageous! Where are the government officials and agencies for the past week? Garbage collection cannot afford a vacation,” a resident told the Inquirer.

## Hauling starts

Another resident and business operator said collection of garbage started only Thursday morning, a week after the typhoon hit the island.



**NO COLLECTION** Bags of trash are left uncollected in a spot surrounded by shops, restaurants and hotels on Boracay Island in Aklan province a week after Typhoon “Ursula” battered the Visayas. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 1,032-hectare island generates 67 tons of trash daily, according to the government’s Boracay Action Plan.

In a statement on Thursday, the municipal government of Malay, which includes the three villages on the island, said the typhoon “disrupted” the delivery of services of the local government.

“The LGU [local government unit] of Malay [has] already coordinated with different haulers in the municipality to augment the [collection] of waste and debris left by the typhoon. In addition, we have coordinated

with capable establishments in the [town] to assist us as part of their social responsibility,” according to the statement.

## Lack of manpower

“We are still reminding everyone that burning of garbage/debris is prohibited by law,” it said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which leads the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, dismissed claims that it had neglected the collection of garbage, as well as the debris left in the wake of Ursula.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, who oversees local governments and solid waste management, appealed for understanding from residents and business owners in Boracay, saying the task force’s manpower was also severely affected by the storm.

In a press briefing on Wednesday, Antiporda said the delay in collection was “not because of the holidays, but because [the collectors] were victims of Ursula, too.”

He said that despite the lack of manpower, some haulers had already started mobilizing on Dec. 29, noting that Boracay’s Stations 1 and 3 had already been cleared of trash and debris.

“We were also unable to immediately clean up due to the shortage of trucks. Our trucks in Boracay that would have been used to haul trash were also inundated,” he said, adding that six trucks had been sent from Malay mainland to assist in clearing operations.

Antiporda said the task force was closely coordinating with the local government to address the garbage situation. He said pollution control officers had also stepped up to conduct clearing operations. **INQ**



## DENR exec: Help us address Boracay Island garbage woes

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonlmayuga

**A**N official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has appealed to Boracay Island stakeholders for their support and cooperation in helping address the garbage problem gripping the country's top tourism destination.

"The DENR cannot do it alone. The problem here is the lack of discipline of the people in Boracay," Benny D. Antiporda, Environment undersecretary for solid waste management and local government units (LGUs) said during a

news conference in Quezon City on New Year's Day.

The official was reacting to reports that Boracay, previously the subject of massive rehabilitation by an interagency task force led by the DENR, is stinking with garbage after days of heavy rains and winds brought about by Typhoon Ursula.

He said the current focus of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force composed of the DENR, Departments of the Interior and Local Government and Tourism is to clear the beachfront of stinking garbage and resume waste collection as soon as possible.



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## Full ban on plastic use starts in CdO

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The local government here started enforcing Thursday a full ban of plastic use in all commercial establishments.

Through the City Local Environment and Natural Resources Office, the implementation is part of the City Ordinance 13378-2018 or the Integrated Ecological Solid Waste Management Ordinance.

Signed into law last year, the ordinance partially banned the use of "single-use" plastic carry-on bags for a year to give residents and businesses more time to comply with the total plastic ban.

Clenro chief Armen Cuenca said full implementation means all the ban now includes transparent plastic wrappers.

The ban covers all business establishments, she said, including "fast food outlets, pharmacies, food kiosks, 'sari-sari' stores, and ambulant vendors" in the public markets.

Cuenca said the only that time transparent plastic wrappers (cellophanes) can be used is when buying meat, fish, fruits, and vegetables.

He said the ordinance also prohibits the use of plastic bags on wet goods that are "already packed in plastic wraps, pouches, bags as part of product packaging." PNA



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# House urged to prioritize passage of food-waste reduction bill

**T**O save more people from hunger this new year, the chairman of the House Committee on Economic Affairs on Thursday urged the leadership of the 18th Congress to immediately pass the House Bill 3370, or the proposed Food Waste Reduction Act when session resumes on January 20.

Rep. Sharon Garin of AAMBIS-OWA Party-list said the proposal aims to reduce the country's food waste through donations and waste recycling.

Citing figures from the Philippine Statistics Authority, Garin said a Filipino household wastes 1.676 kilograms of rice annually. This amount of food waste represents a total of 38.507 million kg valued at P1.617 billion.

"There is a need to address our country's lack of system when it comes to addressing food waste. For instance, food items continue to end up in dump sites instead of being repurposed as livestock feed which can help our farmers," Garin said.

The Special Food Committee on Food Security held its first meeting on bills related to Food Waste Reduction last December 2019.

"We remain optimistic that provisions that can help bolster economic growth can still be added to this bill," she added.

Last Congress, the lower chamber already approved on third and final reading the proposed Food Waste Reduction Act, seeking to reduce food waste through food donations and food waste recycling.

Moreover, Garin, also citing 2019 State of Food and Agriculture Report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), noted how food-waste reduction can spur economic growth and improve agricultural production.

However, she said the report also admits that it will come with a cost.

Globally, FAO said around 14 percent of the world's food is lost after harvesting and before reaching the retail level. With this, FAO encouraged countries to step up efforts to tackle the root and causes of food loss and waste at all stages, and provide guidance on policy and interventions to reduce food loss and waste.

**PPP**

FOR this to be realized, Garin said

the pivotal role of public-private partnership investments are needed.

"The role of Congress now is to create an environment for private actors that will encourage them to invest in the effective implementation of food-waste management and reduction," he said.

House Bill 3370 calls for the mandatory donation of edible food surplus for charitable purposes and the creation of food banks.

Upon its enactment, owners of covered establishments, such as restaurants, cafés, diners, fast-food chains, or hotels; supermarkets with at least 500 square meters of selling space; and culinary schools will be required to segregate their edible and inedible food surplus.

The bill said the food surplus

shall then undergo inspection of the LGU based on the standards to be set by the National Nutrition Council and Food and Drug Administration. Only upon the certification of edible food surplus can it be donated to accredited food banks and distributed among food-insecure Filipinos.

In addition to these, the bill also seeks to create a system that will effectively address the problem of food wastage in the country through a proposed education-information-communication campaign, with a comprehensive, multisectoral approach.

The bill is in line with No. 2 and 12 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aims to eliminate hunger and foster responsible consumption and production, respectively. *Jovee Marie N. Dela*



# Bill on food waste reduction pressed

**By Jester P. Manalastas**

**A HOUSE leader is pushing for the passage of the Food Waste Reduction Act.**

AAMBIS-OWA party-list Rep. Sharon Garin, chairman of the House Committee on Economic Affairs, said House Bill 3370 aims to reduce the country's food waste through donations and wasterecycling.

Her statement comes after the recently published 2019 State of Food and Agriculture Report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) about food wastage.

Garin underscored how food waste reduction can spureconomicgrowthand improve agricultural production. However, the re-

port also admits that it will come with a cost.

For this to be realized, Rep. Garin acknowledged the pivotal role of public-private partnership investments. The role of Congress now is to create an environment for private actors that will encourage them to invest in the effective implementation of food waste management and reduction.

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In addition to these, the bill also seeks to create a system that will effectively address the problem of food wastage in the country through a proposed education-information-communication campaign, with a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach.

"We remain optimistic that provisions that can help bolster economic growth can still be added to this bill," she said.



# Lawmaker wants greater focus on climate crisis, food security

By **LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON**

Sen. Francis Pangilinan has called for greater focus in addressing the climate crisis and food security in the country for 2020.

This, as he expects the new year will bring fresh challenges for Filipinos including higher prices brought by the next tranche of government's tax reform program, low farmers' incomes and the climate crisis.

"Food production or farming and fishing are the first things being affected by this climate crisis," Pangilinan said in a statement.

"Let us follow the calls of scientists to lower what we call our carbon footprint and lessen pollution," he said.

The lawmaker empha-

sized that the Rice Tariffication Law resulted in double burden for the country's farmers.

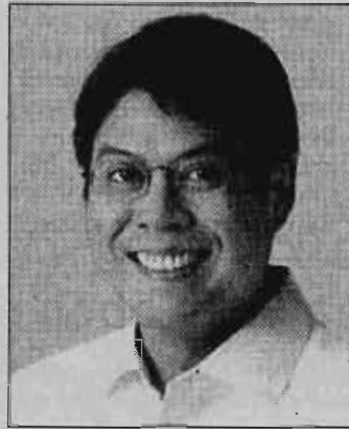
In March 2019, the Philippines implemented the law which led to a considerable increase in imports and, consequently, decline in domestic prices.

The law pulled down the prices of palay in most rice producing areas, dropping to as low as P7 per kilogram.

Prices of Filipinos' main staple continued on the down trend, with consumers saving more but farmers earning less following the influx of imported rice.

The average farmgate price of palay is now nowhere near recovery at P15.57 per kilo, just 0.3 percent better on a weekly basis.

The current price is a 22.3



**Pangilinan**

percent drop from the P20.05 per kilo in 2018 when rice liberalization was not yet enacted into a law. It is also lower than

the P19.40 per kilo last March when the law took effect.

Meanwhile, Pangilinan also called for the passage of some bills pending in Congress — including single-use plastic, rainwater management, agri land conversion ban, urban agriculture, organic farming, solid waste importation ban, food waste reduction, electric and hybrid vehicles incentives, and national mangrove forest protection.

He also urged for an expanded crop insurance, post-harvest facilities, creation of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and the release of the coconut levy fund.





## DENR Warriors try to secure semis berth

DENIED the last time to nail the second and last outright semis berth, Department of Environment and Natural Resources tries again on Sunday when it battles PhilHealth in the 8th UNTV Cup at the Paco Arena in Manila.

Game time is at 3:30 p.m. with the DENR Warriors out to put behind a stinging 74-64 defeat to the streaking PITC Global Traders last month in their bid to secure a Final Four slot in the annual event for public servants.

DENR's defeat two weeks ago put an end to an impressive six-game winning streak, while giving Judiciary, National Housing Authority and PITC slim hopes of advancing automatically to the semis.

On the strength of their 100-96 win over the PhilHealth Plus, the Benneth Palad-mentored Builders finished the second round with a 6-3 mark, slightly ahead of the streaking Judiciary Magis and Malacañang-Philippine Sports Commission Kamao.

Both the Magis and Kamao are sporting similar 5-3 records in the event offering P4 million to the chosen charity of the champion team with the runner-up's own charity getting P2 million.

Already in the semis is defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines which totes a 7-1 mark.

The Kamao can draw level with the Builders if they beat the also-ran Department of Agriculture Food Masters at 5 p.m.

The third to sixth placers will play another round in the quarters with the top two finishers completing the semis cast, while 7th and 8th placers will be eliminated outright in the event organized by UNTV President and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

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**Games Sunday**  
(Paco Arena, Manila)  
3:30 pm - DENR vs PhilHealth  
5:00 pm - Malacañang-PSC vs Agriculture

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Julius Casaysayan hopes to lead the Department of Agriculture Food Masters to victory against the Malacañang-PSC Kamao when they clash on Sunday in the UNTV Cup at the Paco Arena.



## "Ma'am CER": Most influential female miner

**E**NGINEER Cynthia E. Rosero of Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp. (RTN), a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC), was recently conferred the title of "the most empowered woman in mining." She considered the award more as a 'memo' directed to various audiences.

"I cannot take the title all to myself because there are many empowered women in the industry, so please consider it as a message to all - that women in mining are rising to positions of influence and responsibility where they can ensure that responsible mining in the country is strictly executed," says Eng. Rosero, who goes by the initials CER.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), the agency of the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in charge of the "administration and disposition" of mineral lands and mineral resources in the country, recognized Cynthia being the first-ever woman Resident Mine Manager in the Philippines, the highest position in an operating mine.

"There is no shortage of women in the mine

sites; we even have a lady driver who won in a Volvo international truck driving competition a few years back and there was a lady skipper. We have many lady engineers, women environment activists, and lady economic and business leaders, holding critical roles in various mining operations at NAC, I just happen to represent all of them in this award," CER shares.

CER's life is the stuff of stories a mother tells a daughter. She took up mining engineering because she thought it would be easier to find a job after she graduated with the degree. Never for a moment did she doubt that she would not become one, determined as she was determined to become an engineer.

"Ma'am CER" is taking advantage of the fact that a woman is traditionally the symbol of responsible guardianship and of nurturing, which could be used to help improve further the image of mining in the Philippines.

"People who have doubts about the existence and the viability of responsible mining are usually uninformed or misinformed and we should use the woman's charm and our dedication and honesty to tell better stories and send out stronger messages about mining in the Philippines," Rosero promises.

She says: "Nickel Asia does not only provide me a job, the company reminds me every day that a society where gender equality (or equality in general) is taken seriously, is a just society, a responsible society".

"Whatever influence I have, I will maximize to help showcase the industry so that young girls out there who love math and the environment may know that there are great opportunities waiting for them at the mine sites."





# Duterte set to sign P4.1-trillion 2020 budget

By JESS DIAZ

President Duterte will sign the Congress-approved P4.1-trillion national budget for this year on Monday.

The Office of the President

yesterday sent out invitations to leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate for the signing ceremonies set at 4 p.m. at the Rizal Ballroom of Malacañang. Dress code is "Filipiniana/Barong."

Among House leaders who received invitations are Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano, several deputy speakers and Davao City Rep. Isidro Ungab, who is appropriations committee chairman.

Cayetano earlier assured the President that there are no pork barrel fund insertions in the proposed budget.

The House sent Duterte an advance copy of the spending

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bill on Dec. 23 to give him enough time to study it amid claims of Sen. Panfilo Lacson that it contains "pork."

Ungab, who headed the Davao City council appropriations committee as a councilor when the President was city mayor, said Duterte knows a pork barrel item when he sees one.

Deputy Speaker Mikee Romero, an economist, said the one-week delay in the enactment of the 2020 budget would hopefully not affect the economy.

"I am sure the President's economic team has a catch-up plan on fund releases and spending," he said.

Romero, who represents party-list group 1-Pacman, urged the government to ramp up spending "so we could sustain the growth of the economy, which recovered in the third quarter after six months of anemic performance due to last year's budget delay."

As approved by the two chambers of Congress, the final version of the 2020 spending bill shows that among agencies, the Department of Public Works and Highways will have the biggest share of the budget at P580.9 billion, which includes the largest augmentation of P51.1 billion.

The Department of Education will have P521.4 billion, including an additional P1.7 billion. State universities and colleges will have P73.7 billion, which reflects an augmentation of more than P8 billion. The Commission on Higher Education will have P46.7 billion, P7 billion more than what the President had proposed.

With the combined funding for educational institutions, the education sector still gets the largest share of the budget, as the Constitution mandates.

The Department of Health received the second largest amount of additional funds at P12 billion, increasing its budget to P101 billion, followed by the Department of Agriculture (DA), which was allocated P7.4 billion more, bringing its 2020 outlay to P62.3 billion.

Some P3 billion of the DA's gain came from the palay-buying fund of the National Food Authority, which the Senate reduced to P7 billion despite low palay prices.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development and Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) also received huge augmentations of P5.4 billion and P6.2 billion, increasing their budgets to P163.8 billion and P9.9 billion, respectively.

The DICT's P6.2-billion increment is 170 percent its original funding of P3.7 billion. It's the only agency that received such a huge gain, thanks to the Senate. Its secretary is former senator Gregorio Honasan.

Almost all departments were given additional funds, save for two, which suffered huge reductions.

The Department of Transportation lost almost P47 billion, with its budget for next year down to P99.4 billion, while funding for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was reduced by P500.7 million to P25.5 billion.



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WORLD-CLASS

# CULTURAL PARK, CREATIVE HUB TO RISE IN PARAÑAQUE CITY

By **Jerome Aning**  
@JeromeAningINQ

What does a “nayon” (village) mean to you? How can it preserve a country’s history, art, culture and national heritage?

A world-class cultural park and creative hub in Parañaque City’s Entertainment City complex could soon provide answers to these questions, should plans by the Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF) and the Department of Tourism push through.

In an announcement on its Facebook page, NPF invited the public to participate this year in a series of consultations known as “Umpukan sa Nayon” as well as in the “Ang Ating Nayon” program, which will feature visual and literary artists expounding on the nayon’s significance and their aspirations for various communities.

The future site for the foundation’s cultural tourism and public education programs is the 9.57-hectare property at Entertainment City, a reclaimed land on Manila Bay in Parañaque.

The cultural hub is envisioned to be home to permanent and temporary exhibitions, performances, multimedia content and other activities that would highlight various facets of the country’s cultural heritage. The

site will also feature an urban forest where visitors can learn about Philippine flora and fauna and “share meaningful conversations” in pocket gardens.

“It will be a place for enlivening the stories of our nation and nurturing our love of country ... It will provide platforms for reimagining the nation,” NPF said.

### Alleged irregularities

NPF drew controversy in 2018 over a lease contract it had with a Hong Kong-based firm to build a casino, resort, cultural park and indoor theme park on the Parañaque property.

However, the day after the complex was inaugurated, President Duterte fired the entire NPF board for alleged irregularities in the lease contract.

NPF currently operates Nayong Pilipino Clark at Clark Freeport Zone in Mabalacat City, Pampanga, which was inaugurated in 2007 at the site of the old Expo Pilipino.

The park now features Money Museum, Textile Museum, replicas of national landmarks, reconstructions of several indigenous villages, cultural performances and picnic grounds.

The original Nayong Pilipino Cultural Park was in Pasay City near Ninoy Aquino International Airport. INQ