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DENR

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Cimatu orders daily cleanup of Baywalk area, Baseco beach

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu last Friday ordered the agency's officials and employees within the Manila Bay region to conduct daily cleanup activities at the baywalk area and Baseco beach to ensure the successful rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

"I want DENR personnel to be out

there, cleaning daily, and those with desk jobs to experience how it is to work in the field," Cimatu said, addressing particularly those holding office at the DENR's central and regional offices within the Manila Bay region, including bureaus and attached agencies.

The DENR chief is expecting its personnel to be "more visible" in the Manila Bay rehabilitation this year.



DENR workers to do daily Bay cleanup

OFFICIALS and employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will conduct daily cleanup activities at Manila's Baywalk area and Baseco beach as part of the rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

"I want DENR personnel to be out there, cleaning daily and those with desk jobs to experience how it is to work in the field," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu told department workers during his traditional "New Year's Call" at the DENR Central Office in Quezon City last Friday.

Cimatu's directive was addressed particularly to those holding office at the DENR's central and regional offices within the Manila Bay region, including bureaus and attached agencies.

Cimatu said he wanted department personnel to become "more visible" in the bay's rehabilitation this year.

"For the year 2020, I am confident that we will again prove to the Filipino people that indeed there is a department that takes care of their environment and natural resources," he said.

In line with Cimatu's order, DENR Undersecretary for Priority Programs and Field Operations-Luzon and Manila Bay Task Force Ground Commander Juan Miguel Cuna issued a memorandum assigning teams for the clean-up effort.

Under the memorandum, 150 DENR workers will be deployed to the Baywalk and Baseco beach every day, except on January 9, when the annual procession of

the Black Nazarene will be held.

Assistant Secretaries Ricardo Calderon and Corazon Davis will lead employees from the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) and Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) in the cleanup drive scheduled on January 6.

FMB and BMB workers are also assigned to clean the area on January 7. They will be supervised by Assistant Directors Armida Andres and Edna Nuestro.

Meanwhile, on January 8, Cuna and Assistant Secretary Gilbert Gonzales will supervise the groups from FMB and the National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

Employees from the DENR Central Office and the Land Management Bureau will do the cleanup on January 10, with Assistant Secretary Joselin Marcus Fragada and NWRB Executive Director Sevilla David Jr. as supervising officials.

Cimatu has also directed the DENR-National Capital Region and its four field offices to plan for the succeeding weeks of the cleanup.

In his New Year's call, Cimatu said he was banking on the "bottomless support" from all DENR officials and employees as they begin a more challenging year in terms of restoring Manila Bay.

Cimatu said much has been achieved since the Manila Bay rehabilitation kicked off in January last year, but more needs to be done to make the bay fit again for swimming and other forms of recreation.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



DENR to clean up Manila Bay daily

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said its employees, including those doing "desk jobs," will be out in the field doing daily cleanup activities along Manila Bay in the next few days.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said he has ordered the conduct of daily cleanup activities particularly along Manila's Baywalk area and the Baseco Beach in Tondo. The DENR is mandated to manage the country's environment and natural resources, and is head of the interagency Manila Bay Task Force.

"I want DENR personnel to be out there, cleaning daily, and those with desk jobs to experience how it is to work in the field," Cimatu said in a statement.

He recently met DENR officials and employees during a "New Year's Call" held at the DENR Central Office in Quezon City, on Friday, where he gave the instruction.

Cimatu's directive was addressed particularly to those holding office at the DENR's central and regional offices within the Manila Bay region, including bureaus and attached agencies.

The environment chief said he wanted the DENR personnel to become "more visible" in the Manila Bay rehabilitation this year.

In line with Cimatu's order, Environment Undersecretary for Priority Programs and Field Operations-Luzon and Manila Bay Task

Force Ground Commander Juan Miguel Cuna issued a memo to the officials and employees assigned to conduct the daily cleanup drives for the first week covering the period January 6 to 10.

Based on the memo, 150 DENR workers will be deployed to the Baywalk and Baseco Beach every day, except on January 9, when the annual procession of the Black Nazarene will be held.

Assistant Secretaries Ricardo Calderon and Corazon Davis will lead employees from the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) and Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) in the cleanup drive scheduled on January 6.

FMB and BMB workers are also assigned to clean the area on January 7. They will be supervised by Assistant Directors Armida Andres and Edna Nuestro.

On January 8, Cuna and Assistant Secretary Gilbert Gonzales will supervise the groups from FMB and the National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

Employees from the DENR Central Office and the Land Management Bureau will do the cleanup on January 10, with Assistant Secretary Joselin Marcus Fragada and NWRB Executive Director Sevilla David Jr. as supervising officials.

Cimatu has also directed the DENR-National Capital Region and its four field offices to plan for the succeeding weeks of the cleanup. **Jonathan L. Mayuga**



DENR personnel ordered to help in Bay rehab

By Rio N. Araja

SECRETARY Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has directed officials and employees to conduct daily cleanup activities at Manila's Baywalk area and Baseco beach as part of the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

He said he is banking on the "bottomless support" from all agency personnel.

"I want DENR personnel to be out there, cleaning daily, and those with desk jobs to experience how it is to work in the field," he said.

The directive was addressed particularly to those holding office at the DENR's central office and regional offices within the Manila Bay region, including bureaus and attached agencies.

Cimatu said he wanted the DENR personnel to become "more visible" in the Manila Bay rehabilitation this year.

"For the year 2020, I am confident that we will again prove to the Filipino people that indeed there is a Department that takes care of their environment and natural resources," he added.

Undersecretary for Priority Programs and Field Operations-Luzon and Manila Bay task force ground commander Juan Miguel Cuna issued a memorandum to the officials and employees assigned to conduct the daily cleanup drive from Jan. 6 to Jan. 10.

Under the memorandum, 150 DENR workers shall be deployed to the Baywalk and Baseco beach every day, except on Jan. 9 when the annual procession of the Black Nazarene is to be held.

Cimatu ordered the National Capital Region and its four field offices to plan for the succeeding weeks of the cleanup.



Cimatu orders daily cleanup of Manila Bay

OFFICIALS and employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) were ordered to conduct daily cleanup at Manila's Baywalk area and Baseco beach as part of the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

"I want DENR personnel to be out there, cleaning daily, and those with desk jobs to experience how it is to work in the field," said DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu during his traditional "New Year's Call" held recently at the DENR Central Office in Quezon City.

Cimatu said he wanted the DENR personnel to become "more visible" in the Manila Bay rehabil-

itation this year.

"For the year 2020, I am confident that we will again prove to the Filipino people that indeed there is a Department that takes care of their environment and natural resources," he added.

In line with Cimatu's order, DENR Undersecretary for Priority Programs and Field Operations-Luzon and Manila Bay Task Force Ground Commander Juan Miguel Cuna issued a memo to the officials and employees assigned to conduct the daily cleanup.

One hundred fifty employees from the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) and Biodiversity Management Bureau

(BMB) will be deployed to the Baywalk and Baseco beach for the period of January 6 to 10 except January 9 when the annual procession of the Black Nazarene will be held.

Cimatu also directed the DENR-National Capital Region and its four field offices to plan for the succeeding weeks of the cleanup.

Earlier, Cimatu said that much has been achieved since the Manila Bay rehabilitation kicked off in January last year, but more needs to be done to realize the ultimate goal of making it fit again for swimming and other forms of contact recreation. **Cory Martinez**



DENR personnel ordered to clean up Baywalk area

By **ALFRED
DALIZON**

OFFICIALS and employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) were ordered to conduct daily cleanup activities at Manila's Baywalk area and Baseco beach as part of the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu issued the order during his traditional "New Year's Call" held at the DENR Central Office in Quezon City last Friday.

"I want DENR personnel to be out there, cleaning daily, and those with desk jobs to experience how it is to work in the field," Cimatu said.

Cimatu's directive was addressed particularly to those holding office at the DENR's central and regional offices within the Manila Bay region, including bureaus and attached agencies.

Cimatu stressed that he wanted the DENR personnel to become "more visible" in the Manila Bay rehabilitation this year.

"For the year 2020, I am confident that we will again

prove to the Filipino people that indeed there is a Department that takes care of their environment and natural resources," he added.

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Manila Bay, dapat linisin araw-araw - Cimatú

BILANG bahagi ng isina-sagawang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay inatasan ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatú ang mga opisyal at kawani ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na araw-araw na maglinis sa Baywalk ng Maynila at sa Baseco bilang bahagi ng rehabilitasyon sa baybayin.

"I want DENR personnel to be out there, cleaning daily, and those with desk jobs to experience how it is to work in the field," ani Cimatú sa mga kawani ng ahensiya sa ginanap na tradisyunal na "New Year's Call" sa DENR Central Office sa Lungsod ng

Quezon noong Biyernes.

Ang direktiba ni Cimatú ay nakatuon sa mga kawani ng DENR sa central at regional offices na nasa Manila Bay region, pati na rin mga bureaus at attached agencies.

Sinabi ng Kalihim na nais niyang maging "more visible" ang mga kawani ng DENR sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay sa taong ito. "For the year 2020, I am confident that we will again prove to the Filipino people that indeed there is a Department that takes care of their environment and natural resources," diin ni Cimatú.

Alinsunod sa kautusan ni Cimatú, naglabas si DENR Undersecretary for Priority

Programs and Field Operations-Luzon at Manila Bay Task Force Ground Commander Juan Miguel Cuna ng memorandum para sa mga opisyal at kawani ng DENR na inatayang magsagawa ng daily clean-up drives mula Enero 6 hanggang 10.

Batay sa memo, 150 kawani ng DENR ang itatalaga sa Baywalk at Baseco beach araw-araw maliban sa Enero 9 kung kailan gaganapin ang taunang prusisyon ng Jim na Nazareno.

Sina Assistant Secretaries Ricardo Calderon at Corazon Davis ang mamumuno sa mga kawani ng Forest Management Bureau at Biodiver-

sity Management Bureau sa paglilinis sa Enero 6.

Ang mga kawani ng FMB at BMB ay maglilinis din sa Enero 7. Sila ay pangungunahan nina Assistant Directors Armida Andres at Edna Nuestro. Sa Enero 8, sina Cuna at Assistant Secretary Gilbert Gonzales ang mama-mahaia sa grupo mula sa FMB at National Water Resources Board.

Mga kawani naman ng DENR Central Office at Land Management Bureau ang maglilinis sa Enero 10 kasama sina Assistant Secretary Joselin Marcus Fragada at NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr. bilang su-

persiving officials.

Samantala, inatasan ni Cimatú ang DENR-National Capital Region at ang apat nitong field offices na planuhin ang paglilinis sa mga susunod pang linggo.

Ani Cimatú sa kanyang New Year's Call, inaasahan niya ang "bottomless support" mula sa lahat ng opisyal at kawani ng DENR sa pagtahak nila ng mas mapaghamong taon kaugnay ng pagsasaa-yos ng Manila Bay.

"We have done our best in 2019 with your support. I am confident that we will continue to do our best for this year until 2022," sabi ng Kalihim.

SANTI CELARIO

AYUDA SA MGA NASUNUGAN

Pumunta si Go sa covered court ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa Visayas Avenue, Quezon City upang magbigay ng tulong sa 161 pamilyang nasunugan sa Brgy. Vasra noong Disyembre 31.

Namahagi si Go ng mga pagkain, grocery packs at cash assistance sa tinatayang 700 indibidwal na nawalan ng tahanan dahil sa insidente.

Sinabi naman ni Go sa mga estudyante na appektado ng sunog na siya na ang magbibigay sa mga ito ng bagong set ng uniform at school supplies upang agad na makabalik ang mga ito sa kanilang pag-aaral.

"Narito po ako para dinggin ang inyong mga hinaing," sinabi ni Go sa mga nasunugan. Aniya, prayoridad niya ang ganitong nakaawang sitwasyon ng mga Filipino kaya kahit saanman na siya ay kailangan ay agad siyang reresponde sa panawagan sa kanya...Apat na araw lang usually ang hearing sa Senado at ayoko na masayang ang natitirang tatlong araw. Minsan, sinisingit ko rin ang mga pagbisita sa mga araw ng aking trabaho sa Senado dahil hindi ko matiis ang aking mga kababayang nahihirapan," paliwanag ni Go.

Para naman aniya sa nawalan ng tahanan, sinabi ni Go na marami aniyang opsyon ang pamahalaan para sa mga ito at handa aniyang tumulong ang gobyerno sa kanila.

Huwag sana silang pabayaang diyan. Kawawa 'yung mga bata, walang pahingaan at comfort room na malinis at maayos. Ako naman, sabi ko maraming option para sa kanila. Pwede silang mag-avail ng murang pabahay. Bibigyan din sila ng housing materials," sabay tukoy nito ang ilang programa at ayuda na maibibigay ng National Housing Authority.

"Nandito rin ang iba't ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno para magbigay sa kanila ng tulong. Tulungan lang po. Pantawid lang. Importante na magkaroon sila ng permanente na tahanan," aniya pa rin. Nakatanggap din ang mga nasunugan ng ilang klase ng tulong mula sa kinatawan ng Department of Social Welfare and Development, NHA, Department of Trade and Industry at Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP).

May ilang lokal na opisyal ang nakiisa sa nasabing pagbisita ni Go sa mga nasunugan.

MALASAKIT CENTERS

"Para po sa mga may sakit o nasaktan dahil sa insidenteng ito, mayroon na po tayong Malasakit Center na handang tumulong sa inyong medikal na mga pangangailangan, lalo na ang pinansyal na aspeto ng pagpapaospital," ayon kay Go.

Ang Quezon City ay may apat na Malasakit Center sa mga ospital gaya ng Lung Center of the Philippines, Novaliches District Hospital, Philippine Heart Center at Philippine Children's Medical Center.

LIBRENG PASIG RIVER FERRY

Samantala, pinag-aaralan na ni Senador Go ang proseso ng paghahandog ng libreng serbisyo ng paggamit ng Pasig River Ferry sa mga residente ng Metro Manila. O may minimum cost o murang bayad ng pamasaha para pambawi lang ng gasolina.

Muling inilunsad ang ferry bilang alternatifong daan dahil sa bigat ng biyaheng panlupa.

Hinihiling lang ng senador na panatilihin malinis ang Ilog Pasig ng lahat bilang tanda ng "shared responsibility" ng lahat.

KRIS JOSE



CIMATU INATASAN ANG MGA KAWANI NG DENR CENTRAL OFFICE, LMB AT NWRB NA MAGLINIS NG MANILA BAY SA ENERO 10

INATASAN ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang mga opisyal at kawani ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na araw-araw na maglinis sa Baywalk ng Maynila at sa Baseco bilang bahagi ng isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

"I want DENR personnel to be out there, cleaning daily, and those with desk jobs to experience how it is to work in the field," ani Cimatu sa mga kawani ng ahensiya sa ginanap na tradisyunal na "New Year's Call" sa DENR Central Office sa Lungsod ng Quezon noong Biyemes.

Ang direktiba ni Cimatu ay nakatuon sa mga kawani ng DENR sa central at regional offices na nasa Manila Bay region, pati na rin mga bureaus at attached agencies.

Sinabi ng Kalihim na nais nyang maging "more visible" ang mga kawani ng DENR sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay sa taong ito.

"For the year 2020, I am

confident that we will again prove to the Filipino people that indeed there is a Department that takes care of their environment and natural resources," diin ni Cimatu.

Alinsunod sa kautusan ni Cimatu, naglabas si DENR Undersecretary for Priority Programs and Field Operations-Luzon at Manila Bay Task Force Ground Commander Juan Miguel Cuna ng memo para sa mga opisyal at kawani ng DENR na inatayang mag-sagawa ng daily cleanup drives mula Enero 6 hanggang 10.

Batay sa memo, 150 kawani ng DENR ang itatalaga sa Baywalk at Baseco beach araw-araw maliban sa Enero 9 kung kailan gaganapin ang taunang prusisyon ng Itim na Nazareno.

Sina Assistant Secretaries Ricardo Calderon at Corazon Davis ang mamumuno sa mga kawani ng Forest Management Bureau (FMB) at

Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) sa paglilinis sa Enero 6.

Ang mga kawani ng FMB at BMB ay maglilinis din sa Enero 7. Sila ay pangunahang nina Assistant Directors Armida Andres at Edna Nuestro.

Sa Enero 8, sina Cuna at Assistant Secretary Gilbert Gonzales ang mamamahala sa grupo mula sa FMB at National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

Mga kawani naman ng DENR Central Office at Land Management Bureau ang maglilinis sa Enero 10 kasama sina Assistant Secretary Joselin Marcus Fragada at NWRB Executive Director Sevitlo David Jr. bilang supervising officials.

Samantala, inatasan ni Cimatu ang DENR-National Capital Region at ang apat nitong field offices na planuhin ang paglilinis sa mga susunod pang linggo.

Ani Cimatu sa kanyang New Year's Call, inaasahan niya ang "bottomless support" mula sa lahat ng opisyal at kawani ng DENR sa pagtatak nila ng mas mapaghamong taon kaugnay ng pagsasaa-yos ng Manila Bay.

"We have done our best in 2019 with your support. I am confident that we will continue to do our best for this year," sabi ng Kalihim.

Nauna nang sinabi ni Cimatu na marami nang naga-wa buhat nang nagsimula ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay

noong Enero 2018 nguni't marami pa ang kailangang gawin bago matamo ang layuning maging ligtas ito na languyan at sa ibang anyo ng contact recreation.

Ngayong tuloy-tuloy na ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, inaasahan ni Cimatu na ang momentum sa pagbalik ng Manila Bay sa dati nitong ganda at linis ay mapananatili sa darating na mga taon. Sini-guro rin ni Cimatu na mananatiliing top priority ng pamahalaan ang rehabilitasyon hanggang 2022.



(Photo credit to goggle)



DENR araw-araw maglilinis ng Manila Bay

Inatasan ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang kanyang mga opisyal at kawani sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na araw-araw na maglinis sa Baywalk ng Maynila at sa Baseco bilang bahagi ng isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

"I want DENR personnel to be out there, cleaning daily, and those with desk jobs to experience how it is to work in the field," ani Cimatu sa mga kawani ng ahensiya sa ginanap na tradisyunal na New Year's Call sa DENR Central Office sa Quezon City noong Biyernes.

Ang direktiba ni Cimatu ay nakatuon sa mga kawani ng DENR sa mga central at regional office na nasa Manila Bay Region, pati narin ang mga bureau at attached agency.

Sinabi ng kalihim na nais niyang magiging 'more visible' ang DENR sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay sa taong

ito.

"For the year 2020, I am confident that we will again prove to the Filipino people that indeed there is a Department that takes care of their environment and natural resources," diin ni Cimatu.

Alinsunod sa kautusang ni Cimatu, naglabas si DENR Undersecretary for Priority Programs and Field Operations-Luzon at Manila Bay Task Force Ground Commander Juan Miguel Cuna ng memo para sa mga opisyal at kawani ng DENR na inatang magsagawa ng daily cleanup drive mula Enero 6 hanggang 10.

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Mga kawani naman ng DENR Central Office at Land Management Bureau ang maglilinis sa Enero 10 kasama sina Assistant Secretary Josephine Marcus Fragada at NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr. bilang mga supervising official.

Samantala, inatasan ni Cimatu ang DENR-National Capital Region at ang apat nitong field office na planuhin ang paglilinis sa mga susunod pang linggo. **(Riz Dominguez)**



Sec. Cimat araw-araw ipalilinis ang Manila Bay

Sec. Cimat araw-araw ipalilinis ang Manila Bay

BILANG bahagi ng isinasagawang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay inatasan ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimat ang mga opisyal at kawani ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na araw-araw na maglinis sa Baywalk ng Maynila at sa Baseco bilang bahagi ng rehabilitasyon sa baybayin.

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Maliban kay Robredo, pasok din sa listahan ng Vera Files na biktima ng fake news nitong 2019 sina dating Sen. Bam Aquino, Kabataan Party-List Rep. Sarah Elago, dating Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, at Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate.

Kasama rin si dating Pangulong Noyonoy Aquino, Fr. Robert Reyes, Rappler CEO Maria Ressa, at Sen. Risa Hontiveros. (RMN)

nasa Manila Bay region, pati na rin mga bureaus at attached agencies.

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Nauna nang sinabi ni Cimat na marami nang nagawa buhat nang nagsimula ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay noong Enero 2018 ngunit marami pa ang kailangang gawin bago matamo ang layuning magiging ligtas ito na languyan at sa ibang anyo ng contact recreation.

Ngayong tuluy-tuloy na ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, inaasahan ni Cimat na ang momentum sa pagbalik ng Manila Bay sa dati nitong ganda at linis ay mapapanatili sa darating na mga taon. Siniguro din ni Cimat na mananatiling top priority ng pamahalaan ang rehabilitasyon hanggang 2022.



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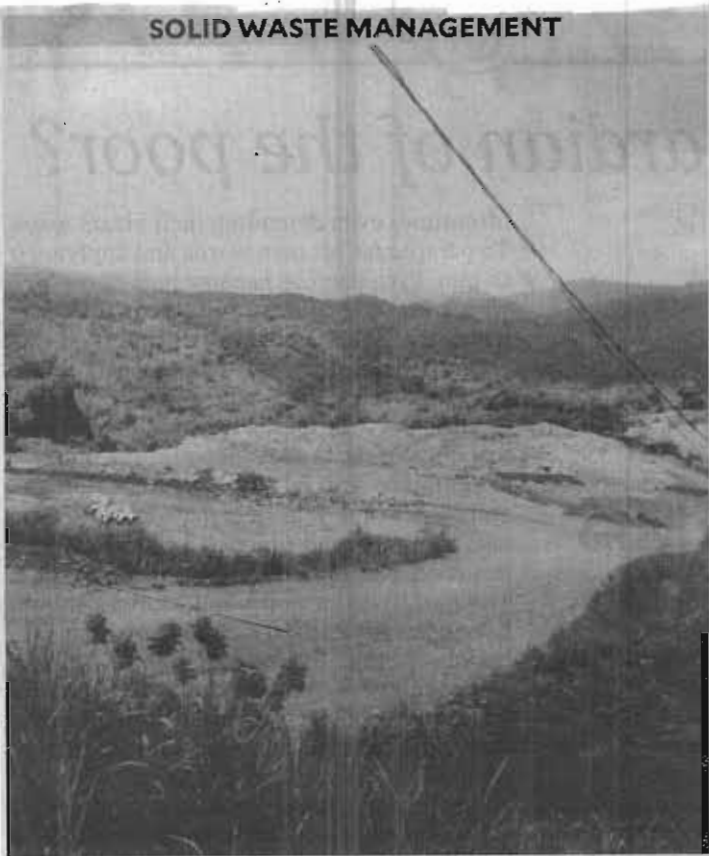
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SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



The Wacuman sanitary landfill at Barangay San Mateo in Norzagaray town remains idle in this file photo.

DENR EYES LANDFILL FOR EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is planning to build at least one sanitary landfill for each congressional district over the next two years in a bid to implement the solid waste management law and finally address concerns over open dumpsites across the country.

"We are looking at 248 clustered sanitary landfills, or one per congressional district, so that there can be more areas where the wastes can be dumped," said Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, who oversees local government units and solid waste management for the agency, told journalists last week.

Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, already requires that all local government units build their own sanitary landfills but many have still not complied with the law over the past two decades, prompting the DENR to file criminal and administrative charges against local officials who allowed the operation of open dumps in their jurisdictions.

"We really need to have an endgame when it comes to

waste management, because what is happening now is that the trash is simply being transferred from one place to another, [leading to the] problem of illegal open dumpsites," Antiporda said.

Thus, the government has allotted a total of \$1 billion for the purpose this year with most of the funding designated for projects that deal with recyclables. For 2021, the environment agency is looking at a budget of P7.2 billion for solid waste management.

The environment official, however, noted that sanitary landfills only address the garbage problem temporarily because a real solution should also include zero-waste technologies and waste-to-energy facilities.

Last year, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu issued an administrative order that outlines the guidelines for the establishment and operation of such facilities, which can convert nonrecyclable waste materials into energy, such as heat and electricity but environmental groups cautioned against such projects, saying that incineration facilities are costly and unsustainable. INQ



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PERMIT FROM DENR SOUGHT

MINDORO BOAT OWNERS EYE FALLEN TREES FOR FISHING VESSELS WRECKED BY 'URSULA'

Maricar Cinco
maricarcinco@INQ

4 PEDRO CITY—Operators of commercial fishing boats in San Jose town in Occidental Mindoro province sought government aid after Typhoon "Ursula" (international name: Phanfone), which hit the province during Christmas holidays, wrecked more than 20 boats, forcing hundreds of crewmen out of jobs for the next couple of months.

More than the financial assistance, the shipowners were urging the government to release to them stacks of hardwood, either from the trees felled by the typhoon or even those confiscated by the government from illegal logging operations in the past.

"The engines, we can start repairing them already. But what we really need are the materials to rebuild the boats soon," said Benito dela Torre, whose fishing boat, named Thanksgiving 51 AJ Thanksgiving, was damaged by the storm.

Another boat owner, Ioe Par-



PHOTOS BY ROD AGAS/CONTRIBUTOR

TYPHOON DAMAGE The local government of San Jose in Occidental Mindoro province says owners of at least 20 commercial fishing vessels will need between P3 million and P4 million to repair each boat damaged by Typhoon "Ursula," which hit the province on Christmas Day.

locha, said they asked the local government of San Jose to help them secure permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the immediate release of the lumber.

Not ready

San Jose Vice Mayor Rod Agas, on Sunday, said they met last week with 20 commercial fishing boat operators, some

of them had two vessels each damaged by the typhoon.

Agas said each one, with its hulls cracked open or its sterns broken, would need between P3 million and P4 million for repairs.

On the average, each vessel employs 30 to 100 people to go on a 15-day to a monthlong expedition to the West Philippine Sea.

Most of the crewmen are

small fishermen from poor families in the coastal town and its islets.

Missing crewmen

"When calamities like this happen, the government immediately looks out for the small fishermen," Agas said. "But it seems the government is not ready for this kind of involving commercial fishing boats.

These are the ones who go out to the West Philippine Sea and supply fish to Majabon and Navotas (in Metro Manila)."

At least two fishermen from San Jose had gone missing since the typhoon, which swept through the Visayas, hit Mindoro Island on Christmas Day.

One of the missing fishermen is Arvin Bantugan, 43, the chief mechanic of F/B Gem-Ver 1.

Bantugan, however, did not join Gem-Ver 1's expedition in June 2019, when a Chinese trawler rammed the boat at Recto (Reed) Bank. The maritime incident gave international attention to the small fishing town of San Jose.

Bantugan only went back to the sea when Gem-Ver 1, after months of being grounded, returned to the West Philippine Sea in November.

Trapped

Dela Torre and Parlocha, in separate telephone interviews, said it was the first time in decades of working in the sea that such a strong combination of

waves and winds they describe as a "tornado" hit them, hurling boats anchored about a kilometer away back to the shores.

"The boats were anchored but the waves flung them to the shore. When (they hit) land, 11 or two men got trapped inside, we had to cut open the hull to get them out," Dela Torre said.

Parlocha thought his three fishing boats, all named Atha, were safely docked before the typhoon hit, only to see the "thrown off by Ursula."

Normally, owners assign a small crew, with its mechanic, to watch the boats while docked.

"When the waves hit them, my men jumped into the water," Parlocha said.

Parlocha said two of his men died—Arnold Lee, whose boat was recovered on Dec. 27, at Edwin Escondo, whose boat after days of being in saltwater was so bloated his family was able to identify him only through "an extra finger in one hand."

Another crew member, Lacorde, remained missing of Sunday. INQ



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Robert Jaworski L. Abaña

REGIONS



ANGAT FISHING In this photo taken in June 2019, a man casts a line into a section of Angat Dam, hoping to catch fish amid the continuing drop in the water level at the reservoir in Norzagaray town, Bulacan province. The bulk of Metro Manila's water supply comes from Angat. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE



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Maynilad improves non-revenue water recovery

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. has recovered some 979 million liters per day (MLD) of water under its non-revenue water management program.

Maynilad said the recovered volume is enough to fill up roughly 390 Olympic-size pools every day and supply about 1.7 million households with potable water.

"Our almost P25 billion capital investment in NRW management over the past 12 years enabled us to recover a water volume that is equivalent to constructing a new dam," Maynilad chief operating officer Randolph Estrelado said.

"This additional supply has gone a long way in supporting our drive to expand services to previously unserved

areas," he added.

Besides NRW management, another initiative that provided additional supply for distribution was the tapping of Laguna Lake as an alternative raw water source apart from Angat Dam.

Maynilad began drawing water from the lake as early as 2010 after constructing its Putatan water treatment plant in Muntinlupa. The company currently has two treatment facilities in the area with a combined output of 300 MLD.

As population continues to grow, Maynilad continues to tighten its water network through pipe replacement and leak repair activities, to enhance efficiencies and make more water available for its growing customer base, which currently stands at around 9.6 million people – up from only 6.1 million in 2006 before Maynilad's re-privatization.

"These infrastructure enhancements,

as well as the two additional treatments plants we built in Putatan, helped to boost available supply and stave off water shortages," Maynilad president and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez said.

"However, Metro Manila's continued over-reliance on Angat Dam as our single major raw water source is a supply risk that the government is now seeking to address," he added.

Maynilad is the largest private water concessionaire in the country in terms of customer base. It serves the areas of Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Malabon, and certain portions of Manila, Quezon City, Makati and Cavite.

Maynilad is owned and managed by Maynilad Water Holdings Co. Inc. a joint venture between Metro Pacific Investments Corp., DMCI Holdings Inc., and Marubeni Corp.



MWSS vows to comply with new water accord order

By BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and concessionaires will exert all necessary efforts to comply with the directive of the government to execute a new water concession agreement after 2022 which is currently being drafted by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

This was announced by MWSS Administrator Emmanuel B. Salamat in a statement and manifesto on the status of the concession agreements and the next steps issued recently.

"MWSS is fully engaged in continuing to ensure the performance of its mandates under Republic Act No. 6234, as well as to achieve the purpose for, and the intention behind, the directives of the President (Rodrigo Duterte). It is committed to materially contribute to the satisfactory resolution of the various issues for all the stakeholders," said Salamat in the statement.

The MWSS chief stressed, "The continuity of the water sector PPP depends on strong communication channels and handholding engagement so that the basic access to water and wastewater services will not be jeopardized, which includes fully addressing and accomplishing the urgent call for new water and sewerage infrastructure projects."

erage infrastructure projects."

Salamat said that in recent weeks, there have been significant events and developments concerning the actions of MWSS, through its Board of Trustees, as well as various official pronouncements by the President and other government agencies and officials, regarding the Concession Agreements with Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) and Manila Water Services, Inc. (MWCI).

The MWSS chief also clarified that the 25-year Concession Agreements (1997-2022) with Maynilad and MWCI are still valid and subsisting contracts.

He explained that the MWSS Board Resolution No. 2019-201-CO of December 9, 2019 only revoked the previous Board Resolution No. 2009-72 of April 26, 2009 involving the extension period from 2022 to 2037 of Manila Water Company and Board Resolution No. 2009-180 of September 10, 2009 involving the extension of concession period from 2022 to 2037 of Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

Salamat said that such action of the Board did not result in the rescission or outright cancellation of the said contracts, which requires a separate and distinct act to be legally effective.

"As such, the government through the MWSS is giving the two concessionaires the opportunity to renegotiate and agree on the new terms of the Concession Agreement," Salamat said.

MWSS has been expressly directed to renegotiate the Concession Agreements with Manila Water and Maynilad in order to remove the illegal and onerous provisions of the same as determined by the DOJ, as well as to include such other provisions that are beneficial to the consumers and the entire nation, the MWSS chief also said.



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Maynilad, Manila Water rake profits

Manila Water has total assets of nearly P123 billion and liabilities of P70 billion while remaining debt light at 39.77 percent

**By Tribune Editorial Team
and Francis T. Wakefield**
@tribuneph1_FTW

Inc. and Manila Water Company
Services (MWCS).

Not even a novation of the contracts entered into by the government with the two water concessionaires in Metro Manila would extinguish the criminal liabilities that President Rodrigo Duterte wants to pursue against the officials of Maynilad Water Services

EXCLUSIVE

These were the sentiments expressed by the President last Saturday to *Tribune* publisher and president Willie Fernandez during the wake of former *Tribune* editor-in-chief Ninez

Turn to page A2



All for naught A young lad finds pissing on the wall rather puny should he try to put out the garbage fire.

ROMAN PROSPERO @tribunetwit_rip

Maynilad, Manila Water rake profits

Maynilad also had a banner year in 2015 when it registered P9.55 billion in net income on a P19.10-billion profit. The years before that were also profitable for the company

From page A1

Cacho-Olivares as he decried the manner the public was "abused" by the water concessionaires for years.

He disclosed that these officials could be charged with plunder or syndicated estafa even if there is a novation, or changing an existing contract with a new one, as the criminal acts had been committed.

Not many industries in the Philippines have posted double-digit profit margins like that of Manila Water.

Chief presidential Legal Counsel and spokesman Salvador Panelo said the President will have an "earthshaking" pronouncement on Monday.

Both companies have been raking profits since they were granted 15-year extensions to

their contracts in 2009, according to a *Tribune* study.

Bloomberg records also showed the Manila Water as having earned more than P6.5 billion in net income from a total P19.836.29 billion in revenue with a 32.89 percent profit margin in 2018 alone (see graphs).

Bloomberg is a major global provider of 24-hour financial news and information, including real-time and historic price data, financials data, trading news, and analyst coverage, as well as general news and sports.

In the third quarter of 2019, *Bloomberg* also reported a net income of P1.5 billion from a P5.6-billion revenue with a 26.61 percent profit margin for Manila Water.

The firm has total assets of nearly P123 billion and liabilities of P70 billion while remaining debt light at 39.77 percent. With its rich assets, however, Manila

Water has failed to invest in new infrastructures to guarantee full and better service to its market.

Not many industries in the Philippines have posted double-digit profit margins like that of Manila Water.

Not losing money

It was no different with Maynilad, which registered big numbers before it filed a case before the Singapore Court.

According to its own records shown in its website, Maynilad figured consistently in 2016 and 2017. Its net income for 2016 was at P6.75 billion on P20.22-billion revenue while in 2017, it had a P6.85-billion net income from a P20.77-billion profit.

Maynilad also had a banner year in 2015 when it registered P9.55 billion in net income on a P19.10-billion profit. The years before that were also profitable for the company.

Maynilad is owned by the Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and DMCI Holdings Inc.

Metro Pacific has industrialist Manny V. Pangilinan as its chairman, Jose Ma. Lim as

president/CEO and David Nicol as executive vice president and chief finance officer.

Isidro Consunji is the chairman/president of DMCI Holdings Inc. with Herbert Consunji as executive vice president and chief finance officer.

Manila Water is under the Ayala Group of Companies, led by Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II as vice chairman, Jose Rene Gregory Almendras as president/CEO and Ma. Cecilia Cruzaba as chief finance officer and treasurer. Manila Water has Jaime Augusto joining Fernando Zobel de Ayala of the Ayalas Corp. and Sherisa P. Nuesa in the Board.

Draconian measures

Daily Tribune reported last week that Malacañang will have to employ draconian measures, including the imposition of a state of emergency, to address the deteriorating water supply problem in Metro Manila.

With its rich assets, however, Manila Water has failed to invest in new infrastructures to guarantee full and better service to its market.

Based on interviews and research conducted by *Daily Tribune*, the water shortage was the result of a combination of poor government planning and the failure by the Manila Water and Maynilad to put up water treatment facilities.

It was found that the Angat-Ipo-La Mesa dam system, the primary source of water in the capital region, is no longer enough to supply water in the metropolis.

Metro Manila residents also deal with poor water quality,

lack of proper sewage system, not enough water treatment facilities and low water pressure to no water supply at all.

An environment expert said that the situation has reached an "inflection point," wherein the water demand of more or less 20 million Metro Manila residents could not be served by the available supply.

Worse, previous governments sat on the proposed projects aimed at addressing the then still looming water crisis. It reached its tipping point now resulting to water shortages even months before the dry season.

Mr. Duterte first made public his dismay on the water concessionaires' contracts to the *Daily Tribune* during a pre-SoNA discussion.

The President said that the two companies, along with some of their cohorts in the government, could be slapped with plunder for collecting fees for services they did not deliver to millions of their customers.

Shortly after that statement, the Supreme Court handed down huge penalties against Manila Water, Maynilad and the state-run Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) in August.

The high tribunal imposed a P2 billion fine on the water companies and MWSS for violating the Clean Water Act.

The two concessionaires' contracts with government to distribute potable water to Metro Manila residents and nearby areas is supervised by the MWSS under a privatization agreement first signed in 1997 under the leadership of former President Fidel V. Ramos.

It was supposed to be 25-year concession agreement split

between the Maynilad and Manila Water. The deals are to expire in 2022.

But in 2009, both firms sought and were granted extensions of 15 years each from former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo even if their old contracts have yet to expire.

Mr. Duterte, however, ordered the review of the contract in March 2019 when both firms had failed to provide quality service and with long and regular water interruptions marking the summer months. Poor service have marked both companies' stints as water distributors and sewerage operations since then.

Cabinet to decide

Meanwhile, National Security Adviser (NSA) Hermogenes Esperon Jr., in an interview by *Daily Tribune*, confirmed that the water issue, including the possibility of state of emergency, will be discussed during today's Cabinet meeting.

Included in the agenda would be the contracts with both Maynilad and Manila Water.

Esperon stressed that the water issue will be the top priority of today's Cabinet meeting.

"We will discuss that in the Cabinet meeting (Monday). So, just be assured that all aspects about water shortage and even the contract itself will be tackled," Esperon said.

The NSA, however, maintained that there is no need to be alarmed about the water situation as the Duterte administration is on top of this matter.

"We are aware of the problem that's why we are addressing it," Esperon assured.



Waiting in vain? Residents of Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City wait for precious water to trickle from their faucets after going without it for four days.

YUMIE DINGDING @tribunetwit_rip

NCO: In her own words

Here lies Ninez Cacho-Olivares, a lunatic crab and the paper to its new owners in

Co. Palace monitors Middle East tensions

Maynilad says water recovery program helped ease supply woes

METRO MANILA's west zone water concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. said its non-revenue water management (NRW) program has recovered 979 million liters per day (MLD) since its launch in 2008, the company said in a statement on Sunday.

"Our almost P25-billion capital investment in NRW Management over the past 12 years enabled us to recover a water volume that is equivalent to constructing a new dam," said Maynilad Chief Operating Officer Randolph T. Estrellado said. "This additional supply has gone a long way in supporting our drive to expand services to previously unserved areas."

The recovered water is enough to supply about 1.7 million households with potable water, and fill a volume equivalent to a roughly 390 Olympic-size pools every day, the company said.

Aside from the water recovery program, the tapping of Laguna Lake as an

alternative raw water source besides Angat dam added supply for distribution to households.

Maynilad started drawing water from the lake in 2010 after constructing its Putatan water treatment plant in Muntinlupa. It currently has two treatment facilities in the area that have a combined output of 300 MLD.

With the rising population within its coverage area, Maynilad has been boosting its water network through pipe replacement and leak repair activities. The initiative is aimed at enhancing efficiencies while making more water available to expanding customer base.

At present, the concessionaire serves around 9.6 million people, up from 6.1 million in 2006 before Maynilad's re-privatization.

"These infrastructure enhancements, as well as the two additional treatments plants we built in Putatan, helped to boost available supply and

stave off water shortages," said President and Chief Executive Officer Ramoncito S. Fernandez.

However, he said Metro Manila's continued over-reliance on Angat dam as its single major raw water source is a supply risk that the government is now seeking to address.

Maynilad is the country's largest private water concessionaire in terms of customer base. It is the agent and contractor of state-led Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) for greater Metro Manila's west zone.

The company serves certain portions of the cities of Manila and Quezon, the side of Makati City west of South Super Highway, and other Metro Manila towns Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon.

Maynilad also supplies water to the cities of Cavite, Bacoor and Imus, and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, all in Cavite province. — VVS



WEST ZONE concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. serves around 9.6 million people, up from 6.1 million in 2006 before its re-privatization.



Illegal plain and simple

“Rody said no, since there was nothing to renegotiate as the deals were deemed illegal from the start due to their onerous provisions.”

Had President Rody Duterte not intervened, the two concessionaires Maynilad and Manila Water would have gotten away with murder in their effort to charge corporate income tax payments in the P82 billion windfall they were seeking via international arbitration.

Through an intricate methodology provided under the concession agreements, tax payments were considered as part of expenses that allow the water firms to pass them on to consumers.

The regulator Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, in fairness, acted to stop the patently illegal moves, resulting in both firms running to the Singapore-based court to challenge the MWSS prohibition.

The Supreme Court (SC) had ruled as illegal such a corporate maneuver.

In a 2002 decision on a case involving power distribution giant Manila Electric Co., the SC barred all public utilities from including income tax in their computation of operating expenses (opex).

It is in opex that the income tax payments are charged and are deducted from net income.

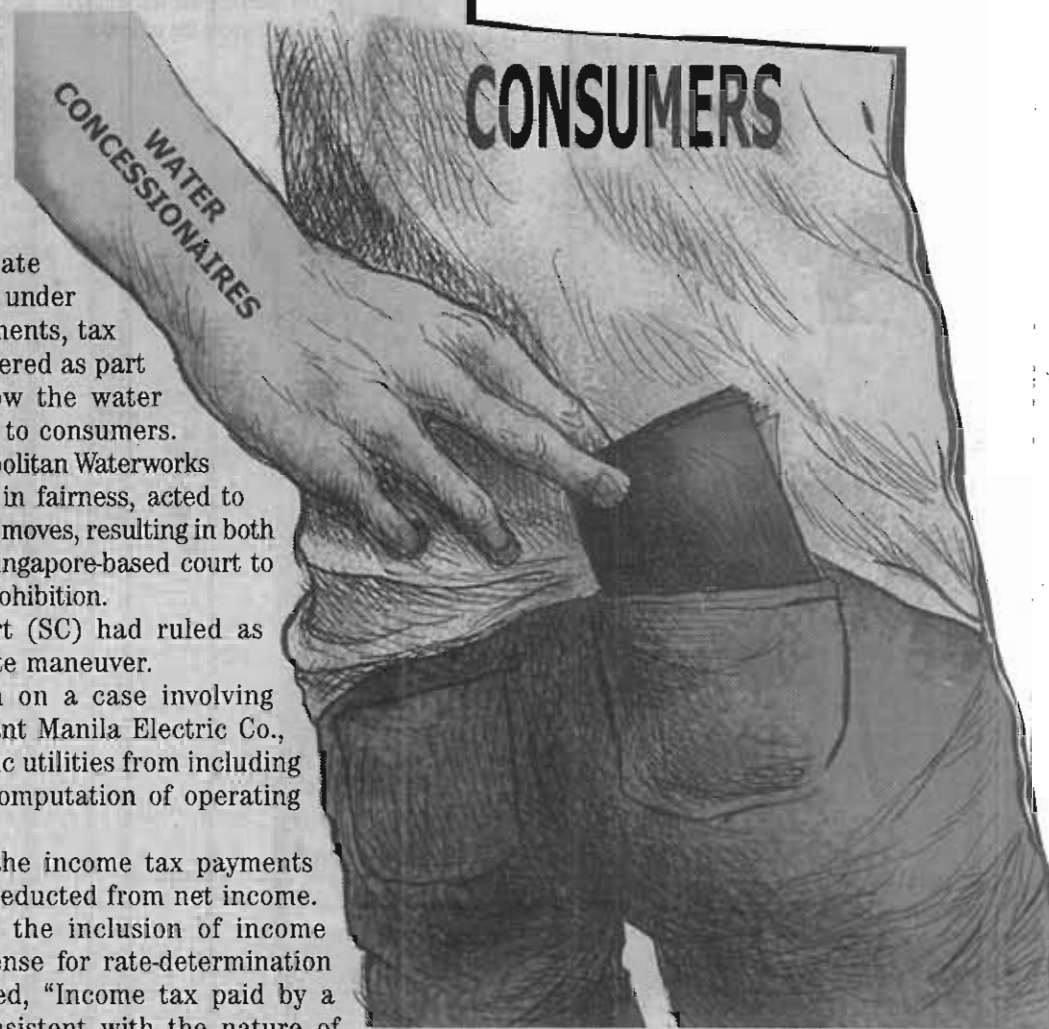
In arguing against the inclusion of income tax as operating expense for rate-determination purposes, the SC ruled, “Income tax paid by a public utility is inconsistent with the nature of operating expenses.”

The High Court furthered, “In general, operating expenses are those which are reasonably incurred in connection with business operations to yield revenue or income. They are items of expenses which contribute or are attributable to the production of income or revenue.”

On the matter of income tax, it said that this is imposed on an individual or entity as a form of excise tax or a tax on the privilege of earning income.

The SC decision directed Meralco to refund consumers for what was deemed as overcharging.

The same SC ruling was also used as basis in the rejection of huge water rate hikes sought by the two water concessionaires in 2013.





Illegal Plain
and Simple

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Any
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is exempt
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donor’s
tax.”**

Maynilad and Manila Water were ordered to bring down their rates, but the water firms rejected the MWSS decision and challenged this through international arbitration and through cases it filed with local courts.

The total amount assessed the government was P82 billion, mostly representing the amount of corporate income tax payments that were included in the setting of water rates.

Maynilad, for instance, had admitted that 65 percent of its tariff hike would be for the recovery of its income tax.

**“
In arguing
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operating expenses.’**

Likewise, the rate computations of the water firms included the cost of future expenses charged in advance from consumers. Future expenses included expansion projects that were not even implemented or projections such as projected demand to justify higher rates.

The arbitration court had ruled that the government owed the two water firms an initial P10.8 billion based on the lopsided provisions in the concession agreement which Rody rejected. Instead, he said he would file syndicated estafa charges against both firms aside from aborting the contracts.

The MWSS then rescinded a deal in 2009 that extended the concession agreements by an atrocious 28 years, until 2037, and restored the 2022 term in the 1997 pact.

To salvage its lucrative concession, both firms waived the amounts won in the arbitration proceedings and offered to renegotiate their contracts while suspending further rate increases.

Rody said no, since there was nothing to renegotiate as the deals were deemed illegal from the start due to their onerous provisions.

Instead, he vowed to put the tycoon owners of both firms, Manuel V. Pangilinan and Fernando Zobel de Ayala, behind bars on syndicated estafa charges that have no bail.

The jailing of the billionaires would be fair payback for duping Filipinos for so long under different administrations before meeting their match in Rody.



Fernando eyes damming of Bayabas river to solve Bulacan farmers' water woes

By FREDDIE C. VELEZ

CITY OF MALOLOS, Bulacan — Bulacan Governor Daniel R. Fernando appealed to the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) on behalf of the Bulacan farmers to increase their water allocation from Angat Dam for irrigation.

"Let us support our farmers because the farmers are the main aid of the nation and the greatest power of our economy. We need food, when farms will grow successfully, businesses in the roadways as well as the communities will also grow," Fernando said.

In a dialogue held at the Governor's Official Residence Friday, Fernando told Bulacan farmer leaders that based on his dialogue with Seville David Jr., NWRB executive director, there is a chance that NWRB will increase the irrigation water allocation to Bulacan farmlands to 20 cubic meter per second and possibly to its normal 30 cubic meters per second if the water elevation in Angat Dam continues to improve.

As of 8 a.m. Friday, the water level of Angat Dam was at 204.07, a bit higher from 203.71 meters a week ago. Water elevation in Ipo Dam was at 101.08 meters, while Bustos Dam was 16.21 meters, below its normal

level of 17.34 meters.

Recently, the NWRB allocated only 10 cubic meters per second for irrigation and 40 cubic meters per second to Metro Manila's domestic needs.

The 10 cubic meters per second allocation was only provided to the National Irrigation Authority's (NIA) north zone service areas that include the towns of Baliwag, Calumpit, Pulilan, San Ildefonso and San Rafael, San Simon, Apalit, Candaba and San Luis in Pampanga.

This left the south zone service areas of NIA which includes the towns of Hagonoy, Balagtas, Bocaue, Bulakan, Bustos, Plaridel, Calumpit, Guiguinto Pandi, Paombong and the City

of Malolos without irrigation water allocation from Angat Dam.

The water shortage problem prompted Fernando to push for the long term solution proposed by former Governor now Bulacan Vice governor Wilhelmino M. Alvarado to convert Bayabas river to a new dam and create other catch basins that could hold rain from the Sierra mountain ranges during the rainy season. "No water shortage if the Bayabas river will be converted into a dam," Alvarado said.

"If this will only be realized, an assurance of bountiful water supply in our dams will no longer be a regular problem for we have a water source

coming from the Angat-Umiray catch basin and the Bayabas river if it will be converted into a dam," Alvarado said.

Alvarado said the Angat Dam is heavily silted and needs massive dredging.

"Mabilis natutuyo ang tubig sa dam kasi heavily silted na ito at ang mga contributory dito ay ang pagputol ng mga century-old na mga puno at ang mga nabulok na troso na nasa ilalim ng reservoir (the water in the dam easily dries up because it is heavily silted and this is caused by the cutting of centuries-old trees and the rotting logs at the bottom of the reservoir)," Alvarado said.



Panawagan para sa dagdag na suplay ng irigasyon

UMAPELA ang mga magsasaka sa probinsiya ng Bulacan, para sa pagpapataas ng alokasyon sa irigasyon ng tubig, habang unti-unti nang tumataas ang level ng tubig sa Angat Dam.

Nitong Biyernes, nagkaroon ng diyalogo si Governor Daniel Fernando sa mga lider magsasaka at mga opisyaes ng National Irrigation Administration (NIA) bilang tugon sa hiling ng mga magsasaka sa probinsiyal na pamahalaan na humiling para sa kanila sa National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

"There is a chance that the NWRB would increase the irrigation water allocation to Bulacan farmlands at 20 cubic meters per second (cms) and possibly to its normal 30 cms if the water elevation in Angat Dam continues to improve," pahayag ni Fernando.

Ang Angat Dam ang pangunahing pinagkukunan ng suplay ng tubig sa Metro Manila at irigasyon ng palay sa mga sakahan ng Bulacan at ilang bahagi ng Pampanga.

Nitong Enero, naglaan lamang ang NWRB ng 10 cms sa halip na normal na 30 cms para sa irrigation at 40 cms para sa suplay ng Metro Manila mula sa normal nitong 46 cms.

Ang 10 cms alokasyon sa irigasyon ay ipinagkaloob lamang sa north zone service areas ng NIA, kung saan kabilang ang mga bayan ng Baliwag, ilang bahagi ng Calumpit, Pulilan, San Idefonso, at San Rafael sa Bulacan at San Simon, Apalit, Candaba, at San Luis sa Pampanga.

Dahil dito walang natatanggap na serbisyong irigasyon ang south zone service areas ng NIA, kung saan sakop ang mga bayan ng Hagonoy, Balagtas, Bocaue, Bustos, Bulakan, Plaridel, ilang bahagi ng Calumpit, Angat, Guiguinto, Pandi, Paombong, at ang siyudad ng Malolos.

Samantala, sinabi ni NIA regional manager Josephine Salazar na nagtakda na sila ng pulong kasama ng mga lider magsasaka mula sa north at south zones service areas ng ahensiya upang makabuo sila ng plano kung paano higit na mapakikinabangan ng maayos ang suplay ng irigasyon.

Sinusuplayan ng Angat Dam ang irigasyon ng nasa 20,000 ektaryang sakahan sa Bulaan. Habang tumatanggap din ng suplay ang nasa 2,000 ektarya ng sakahan sa Pampanga sa Candaba at sa bahagi ng San Luis at Santa Ana.

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Basura sa Boracay, pinoproblema

NI JUN N. AGUIRRE

BORACAY ISLAND - Magpapalabas ng bagong regulasyon ang Task Force Boracay kaugnay ng lumalalang problema sa basura sa isla.

Ayon kay Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu,

hindi nila inaasahan ang bugso ng basura na tumambak sa isla dulot ng bagyong Ursula.

Aniya, nitong Disyembre 25 pa humagupit ang bagyo sa Boracay na ikinasira ng ilang bahay.

Dahil sa tambak na basura, pinamunuan ni Cimatu ang

closed door meeting, kasama ang mga stakeholders sa Boracay kamakailan.

Inihayag ni Cimatu, babalangkasin muna nila ang bagong regulasyon sa Central Office at agaran ding ipatutupad sa naturang lugar.



CTALK

CITO BELTRAN

Boracay – ‘special purpose territory’

The job of clearing and cleaning up Boracay Island is not even half done. Yes, the world famous beach of Boracay is a 100 times better, cleaner and the maddening crowds are not as bad as they used to be. But as I mentioned in previous articles, there remains a ton of work to be done before anyone in government can say: “Mission accomplished.” Many of the demolished areas look exactly like you would expect a demolition site would be, garbage collection and disposal is still a major problem, transportation and price regulation is still a headache for many, and the recent typhoon was a sobering reminder that it’s too early to celebrate because one lesson from Typhoon Ursula is that Boracay is not “typhoon ready.” The challenge is how to do it all knowing time is running out on the Duterte administration and given the fact that the DENR, DOT, and DILG all have a long list of priority projects or concerns that got sidetracked because of the president’s priorities.



DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu recently visited Boracay to personally see what has been reported in the news as well as from travelers. According to my sources, the ever vigilant “Godfather” of Boracay was both pleased and upset at what he saw and heard. The first “bad sign” was the disappearance of the “Welcome to Boracay” sign that was either taken down or blown off during the typhoon. After that, Sec. Roy asked to see the things a certain columnist had been “complaining about” concerning the garbage piles and the transport problem, so he could act on them. Fortunately, the garbage had all been collected according to Usec. Benny Antiporda after he raised hell at the contractor and collectors a few days before the ocular visit of Sec. Cimatu. But even though the garbage had been collected, Secretary Cimatu was not spared from the lamentations of many business owners whom Sec. Roy met. I heard that a leader of the local Boracay Chamber of Commerce pointed out that in the 15-year existence of the Chamber, the current garbage issue is at its worst. The biggest complaint was the announcement that local businesses will have to pay P10 for every kilo of trash collected! But when asked, the ECOS representative claimed that they were only charging P6 per kilo. Apparently someone had added P4. It does not stop there. When Secretary Cimatu, checked on the problem of transportation and tricycles, he found out that the trikes were limited to a very small location, no facilities for customers and drivers and that the drivers were paying to be in line. Why does that not surprise us? It’s a racket that exists wherever there is a local government!

At the moment, there is supposed to be a female “General Manager” of sorts reportedly appointed or designated by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu. I can’t judge how effective she has been, given that I have not met her or seen her work. However, I have to point out that during our stay which was right after Typhoon Ursula had ripped through the island, I was told that the Lady GM was away for the Christmas holidays. That of course is normal among government employees, but given the nature of her area of responsibility, her absence or “holiday leave” was a bad idea.

Not many people realize it but if you work in the service industry, meaning hotels and resorts as well as food and beverage outlets, Christmas, New Year, Valentines, Easter/Holy Week are some of the holidays when all leaves are cancelled, similar to the police and the military. Having built two resorts in Northern Palawan and run them during their start up, I can tell you that the Yuletide and New Year season is “Luhaan season” for many workers who can’t or won’t be allowed to go home because of the volume of customers. It would be tantamount to abandoning your post, regardless of the fact that you asked permission. Needless to say, I was shocked that Boracay’s “government GM” or OIC was reportedly not on the beach or on the ground.

The way I see it, in order for business in, and environment of Boracay to succeed, what Secretary Cimatu might consider doing is to recommend to President Duterte to ask Congress to declare Boracay Island as a Special Purpose Territory under the national government, create an independent professional management authority with police powers to oversee the day to day issues on the island and fund it with money from all the multi-layers of taxes collected from tourists and business establishments whose business is directly connected to Boracay. By doing this, it becomes like a mini Hong Kong or Singapore, run by professionals, business owners, national government officials such as Usecs from DENR, DOT, DILG and where the local government retains a vote/seat to represent tax concerns and the likes but not dipping fingers in every pie. If designed and done properly such an independent group could carry on with President Duterte’s vision of restoring and managing Boracay as the country’s premiere example of an internationally admired tourism destination. Yes, such an idea presents issues and complications, but we all have to realize that BORACAY is loved by the world and belongs to the world and we Filipinos are blessed to be its caretaker which is why we need to nurture it. Boracay needs to be protected and declaring it as a special purpose territory is the best way. In the meantime, let’s all thank Secretary Roy Cimatu for his vigilance!

* * *

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EDITORIAL

Waste segregation

PERHAPS, it's time to fully implement the government's waste segregation program not only in the heavily-populated Metropolitan Manila area but throughout the country.

And concerned government authorities should dig deeper why many people, particularly in urban centers, still continue to dump their garbage into waterways and other public places.

In Manila, Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso and Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna, aware of the garbage problem, now want to strictly implement the waste segregation scheme.

Initially, the scheme covers establishments which contribute to the huge volume of garbage being collected in the capital city on a daily basis, according to Moreno, a former scavenger.

The strict but fair actor-turned-mayor called on establishment owners and residents to practice "waste sorting" by separating their wet and dry trash and those that are recyclable and not.

At the same time, the highly-articulate local executive announced plans to undertake a city-wide information dissemination campaign on the importance of waste segregation.

Years ago, as a poor boy, Moreno roamed the streets of the impoverished district of Tondo in Manila looking for food by going through garbage dumped by residents and passersby.

In battling for waste segregation, Moreno said it would be lot easier for scavengers, mostly children and elderly, to pick up recyclables put together in a single garbage bag.

"Mas madali 'yung kukunin na lang nila 'yung mga pakikinabangan kesa kakalkalin ang basura tapos iiwanan (ang mga nakakalat na) pinagkalkalan," lamented the tough-talking Moreno.

We hope other local government authorities will follow suit. They should wake up to their legal responsibility to strictly implement the country's waste segregation program.



After Indonesia's floods, few hear climate 'wake-up call'



Residents walk near the wreckage of vehicles that were swept away by flood in West Java, Indonesia on Friday.

AP

JAKARTA (Reuters) — Floods that killed more than 50 people in Indonesia's capital after the biggest rainfall since records began should be a wake-up call to climate change in one of the world's biggest carbon emitters, environmental groups said.

But, despite the disaster in Southeast Asia's biggest city, authorities see no greater impetus for more cuts to planned carbon dioxide emission reductions or other measures to address climate change.

The floods "should serve as a strong reminder to the government that things can't be business as usual," said Yuyun Harmono, a campaign manager at the Indonesian Forum for the Environment, the country's biggest green group.

With one of the world's longest coastlines Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country, is ex-

tremely vulnerable to climate change. The metropolitan region of the capital Jakarta is home to 30 million people and parts of the city near the coast are sinking just as sea levels are rising.

However, the country is the world's fifth-largest emitter of the greenhouse gases that are blamed for causing the climate crisis. It is also the world's top exporter of both thermal coal and palm oil, whose cultivation has reduced the amount of carbon dioxide absorbing forests.

At least 53 people were killed after the rains on New Year's Day, Indonesian authorities said on Saturday. Nearly 175,000 people remain evacuated from their homes.

Indonesia's meteorological department said it was the heaviest one-day rainfall since Dutch colonists began keeping records in 1866 and squarely blamed rising global temperatures.



After Indonesian capital's deadly floods, few hear climate change 'wake up call'

JAKARTA — Floods that killed 60 people in Indonesia's capital after the biggest rainfall since records began should be a wake-up call to climate change in one of the world's biggest carbon emitters, environmental groups said.

But, despite the catastrophe in Southeast Asia's biggest city, authorities see no greater impetus for more cuts to planned carbon dioxide emission reductions or other measures to address climate change.

The floods "should serve as a strong reminder to the government that things can't be business as usual," said Yuyun Harmono, a campaign manager at the Indonesian Forum for the

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At least 60 people were killed after the rains on New Year's Day, Indonesian authorities said on Saturday evening. Nearly 100,000 people remain evacuated from their homes.

Indonesia's meteorological department said it was the heaviest one-day rainfall since Dutch colonists began keeping records in 1866 and squarely blamed rising global temperatures.

"The impact of a one degree increase can be severe," Dwilokrita Karnawati, the head of the agency, told a news conference on Friday. "Among that is these floods."

The floods were "a big wake up call," said Hidayah Hamzah, a research analyst at the World Resources environmental group in Jakarta.

'WE DON'T CARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT'

Social media users criticized the government for not doing enough on climate change after the flooding. Twitter user @wolfiecoconut said: "Indonesia is a country that is prone to disaster but we don't care about the environment."

But the green lobby has little sway in Indonesia.

Some 18% of Indonesians believe there is no link between human activity and climate change, one of the highest percentages among the world's 23 biggest countries, according to the 2019 YouGov-Cambridge Globalism Project.

When asked if the government would do more on climate issues after the floods, the Ministry of the Environment and Forest's Climate Adaptation Director Sri Tantri Arundhati said on Friday there are no plans to change policy or shift the targets for cutting carbon dioxide output it agreed under the Paris Accord.

Rida Mulyana, director general for electricity at the energy ministry, said the government would stick to a plan for moving to renewables that means more than half of power generation will still rely on coal for the next decade.

Part of the government's solution for Jakarta's regular floods,

which are not usually as bad as the recent ones, is to move the capital to the island of Borneo by 2023, a plan environmentalists fear will exacerbate deforestation.

Plans to improve Jakarta's flood defences include building two dams and works on the city's biggest river.

"There aren't a lot of people who realize the impact of climate change," said Nirwono Joga, a researcher at the Urban Studies Center in Jakarta.

"When the flood recedes and people get back to their homes and resume normal activities, flood management or concrete actions to combat climate change will be forgotten too." — *Reuters*



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

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DAH

Transition to full non-lead production of PH paint, coating industry hailed

By CHITO A. CHAVEZ

Quezon City-based environmental group EcoWaste Coalition and the Philippine Association of Paint Manufacturers (PAPM) have hailed the historic transition of the country's paint and coating industry to full non-lead production effective January 1, 2020 as the phase-out period of lead containing paints used for industrial applications was already completed.

They noted the "phase-out of all types of lead-containing paints in the Philippines is an excellent example of a successful chemical policy directive aimed at preventing and reducing children's exposure to lead, a highly toxic

substance, from paints."

Under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order 2013-24, or the Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds, manufacturers of lead-containing paints for industrial uses were directed to phase out such paints by December 31, 2019.

Lead-containing architectural, household and decorative paints were phased out at an earlier time on December 31, 2016.

EcoWaste Coalition explained that lead paints are paints or other similar surface coatings containing lead compounds in excess of 90 parts per million (ppm).



DENR sets January ECC hearing for Cebu quarry

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is set to conduct a public hearing for the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) application of Cebu-based mining firm Citadel Mining Corp. (CMC) for its mine site in Danao City.

"Scheduled for public hearing this January... It will discuss impact and mitigating measures of the mining activities," DENR Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Director William P. Cuñado said in a phone interview.

In a notice, the EMB said a public hearing on the environmental impact statement (EIS) of the proposed Danao Pozzolan Mining Project of CMC is set on Jan. 17. The EIS of the project is currently being reviewed by the bureau.

"*Pagkatapos doon sa public hearing, kung mai-submit na yung mga output nila, then mag-schedule ulit* (After the public hearing, if the company submits the requirements, we will then schedule) a technical hearing," Mr. Cuñado said.

The timeline will "depend on the project proponent's compliance... we cannot dictate the compliance of the company," he said.

The project is located at barangays Cabungahan, Manlayag, Sta. Rosa and Guinacot in Danao City. The site comprises 102.1 hectares out of the 336.3782 hectares covered by the mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA), which was awarded to the company on April 10, 2000.

The mining method for the proposed projects is surface mining through quarrying, with a mine life of 10 years. Pozzolan, a major raw material used in the production of cement, can be mined in the area, which will be supplied to clients like Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc.

"CMC has not considered any alternative project site. For the mining method, given the nature of the deposit, the result of the initial feasibility conducted, drilling/geologic results and environmental considerations, the most suitable method of extraction is by open-cut quarry method," the company said in its EIS.

The first year of implementation is the pre-construction stage which will

involve technical design and finalization of quarry plans and construction of facilities, soil investigation, and securing of needed permits. In the second year, it has scheduled construction and site preparation, which will include site clearing, development of roads and drainage lines, and preparation of the loading pad and benches, among others.

Extraction of the mineral will also start by the second year, with activities to run for 10 years. At the end of the mine life, the company will rehabilitate the remaining mined-out areas and settling ponds, decommission of quarry ancillary facilities, implement social programs, and donate buildings to interested local government units. — Vincent

Maribel P. Galang



PH completes phaseout of paints with lead content

THE phaseout of all types of lead-containing paints in the Philippines is an excellent example of a successful chemical policy directive aimed at preventing and reducing children's exposure to lead, a highly toxic substance, from paints.

The EcoWaste Coalition and the Philippine Association of Paint Manufacturers marked the historic transition of the country's paint and coating industry to full non-lead production effective Jan. 1 with the completion of the phaseout period for lead-containing paints used for industrial applications.

Under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order 2013-24, or the Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds, manufacturers of lead-containing paints for industrial uses were directed to phase out such paints by Dec. 31, 2019. Lead-containing architectural, household and decorative paints were phased out at an earlier time on December 31, 2016. Lead paints are paints or other similar surface coatings containing lead compounds in excess of 90 parts per million.

"The conclusion of the phase-out period for lead-added industrial paints wraps up a positive process of replacing lead-based additives, particularly pigments, with non-lead raw materials for all paint formulations," said Ely Kenneth Ong Sue, President, PAPM. "The industry-wide shift to lead-free paint manufacturing is a superb way to usher in 2020. It's a milestone made possible by unique government, industry and civil society collaboration," he added.



AS A MATTER OF FACT

SARA SOLIVEN DE GUZMAN

Year 2020 - clear vision!

Let's get this year rolling and start with a clean slate. Year 2020 should imply - a clear vision. After all the challenges in the past year, we should clear our mind, heart and spirit in order to move forward. Many of us have fallen short of important virtues - patience, kindness, humility, selflessness, responsibility, integrity, honesty and commitment. In our own quest in life may it be as a parent, a student, an employee, a boss or a public servant - we all should aim to become better.



We all need to do our part in making our world a better place. The past year has shown us many images beyond our imagination. Suicides, murders, homicide, manslaughter, rape, theft/ corruption, etc. Our leaders have pushed us to our limits by the things they do and say. Our government has tested our patience and impatience by not giving us the right and proper human services we deserve. We continue to degrade our environment and as we speak forest fires continue to hit our ecosystems due to human craziness, foolishness and stupidity.

We are clearly leaving a trail of human misery all around us and if we don't get our act together, we will continue to suffer. Government must lead the people to a more civilized society with the proper education to refine our ways and lift up our spirit and develop a better value system. Government must work for the people.

Each of us have a role to play to create a balance in our communities. Without having a clear vision of our own functions and responsibilities, confusion, chaos - anarchy will continue. Parents should give more time for their children who need love and understanding. Students must realize the importance of getting a good education and how burning the midnight oil to understand facts and solve problems will help them function as better citizens in the future. The workforce must be more committed to their jobs as it gets the country going. Public servants/ government workers should continue to develop reforms to better their systems and services for the people.

When everyone works as a community with a clear vision and a common goal - then we achieve a well-balanced society. A good microcosm of community working toward a common goal is the province of Bohol. I'm not talking about politics this time. I'm talking about the people, the community who work together for a common goal. From the airport or seaports you notice how dedicated the workers are. They all follow the rules of efficiency. The areas are well maintained, services are efficient and the people, the local folk are honest. Tourists are happy because they feel safe. All tourists' fees seem to be standard. You won't get the feeling of being ripped off. As you go around the towns, you can easily appreciate the beauty of the churches, the rivers, beaches and forests - with zero waste. In tourist sites like the Loboc River Cruise, you don't actually feel the huge influx of tourists because there are good and efficient systems in place. The scenic zipline that takes you across the Loboc river-forest and the jumpy ride of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) through the Chocolate Hills - all seemingly dangerous feats but with the proper protocols and strict enforcement of rules, tourists feel very safe.

What is my point? we can make things work only if we "will" it to work. The Boholanos have a clear vision. They are passing international standards because of the mindset each member of society has. Yes, they continue to thrive because they have a goal. They want to live and be happy as a people. They want to continue to give good service in order to sustain themselves in their beloved province. They know that they need to protect their environment, improve their work and develop new trends to attract more tourists. This type of mindset is rare in our country. Unfortunately, we have many beautiful provinces and can offer many attractions not to mention develop many products but the people are lazy, uneducated and have no will to improve things. In the cities, barangay officials cannot even follow international standards of road safety to avoid hazards. Yes, our streets and highways continue to be the #1 dangerous zones. Just look around and observe. City mayors should give all barangay captains a 101 class in public service in order to function well; meeting national and international standards.

* * *

Talking about 20/20 vision. A very strong message about how we are as a people was in the news these past few days. The National Parks Development Committee (NPDC) estimated that at least 65,000 people who visited Rizal Park left tons of garbage in the area. Single-use plastics, bottles, boxes, and leftover food were thrown on the park grounds. Why can't we properly throw our trash in the bins? There were different bins for waste segregation but no one seemed to follow it.

The city government of Manila collected 32 trucks of garbage from vendors in Divisoria. Che Borromeo, head of the Manila Task Force Cleanup said they hauled 380 tons of garbage - equivalent to 35 trucks during the cleanup operation conducted along Recto Avenue from Abad Santos to Asuncion streets. DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said that based on their estimates, the volume of garbage collected from Rizal Park after the New Year celebration was less than the 50 metric tons (MT) collected during the Christmas festivities. Believe it or not, this volume has already improved from trash collected in previous years reaching over 100 MT. In 2014 the DENR estimated 26 truckloads of garbage equivalent to 156 MT, in Manila alone after the New Year celebration.

Local government units (or LGUs) should be consistent and stricter with their waste segregation policies. It is suggested that stiffer penalties be imposed by the LGUs for non-segregation of solid waste. DENR thinks that a P1,000 fine would do and community service should be imposed for those who cannot pay. Under Republic Act 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act, the law imposes fines of P1,000 for non-segregation of waste and from P300 to P1,000 for littering.

As population increases and living standards are enhanced the country generates more solid waste. According to a report by the Senate Economic Planning Office (SEPO), the country's waste generation steadily increased from 37,427.46 tons per day in 2012 to 40,087.45 tons in 2016. It is said that solid wastes produced by Philippine cities are expected to increase by 165 percent to 77,776 tons by 2025.

Who produces the most amount of solid waste? These are the residential areas that are producing 57 percent of solid waste, while wastes from commercial establishments, institutional sources, and industrial or manufacturing sector accounted for 27 percent, 12 percent, and 4 percent of the total waste generated, respectively. This means that proper waste segregation should start from home. Families must be made aware of the policies on waste segregation and must be penalized when caught violating such.

John Wesley in a 1778 sermon said, "Cleanliness is next to godliness." From the moment we were born we were already conditioned to be clean. We must begin with our physical cleanliness, continue on with a mental cleansing and down to the core of our human spirit. Let's put some clarity of vision in year 2020.





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NAHAHARAP sa maraming pagsubok ang maraming overseas Filipino worker at kanilang mga pamilya.

Giyera, pulitika, krimen.

May giyera sa Libya na pinagtatrabahuhan ng libo-libong OFW.

May namumuong giyera kasangkot ang Iraq at Iran, America at iba pang mga Arabong bansa dahil sa patayan sa pagitan ng mga Amerikano, Iran at Iraq.

Naririyang din ang mga krimen, gaya ng pagpatay sa mga OFW sa Kuwait.

Naghahalo-halo ang mga ito upang malagay sa balag ng alanganin ang maraming OFW at mga pamilya-OFW.

Pero hindi lang apektado ang mga OFW sa mga pangyayaring ito kundi maging ang buong bansa.

LANGIS NAGMAHAL

Makaraang mapatay sa pamamagitan ng drone sa airport ng Baghdad, Iraq ang Iranian General na si Qassem Soleimani na sinasabing ikalawa sa pinakamakapangyarihang opisyal ng Iran, umamin si American President Donald Trump na siya ang nag-utos nito.

Ngayon, nagbababala ang Iran na aatakehin nila ang mga sundalo ng mga Amerikano sa Iraq at kakambal naman nito ang sinasabing pagbomba ng Amerika sa 52 lugar sa loob mismo ng Iran bilang ganti kung sakali.

Habang nagaganap ito, biglang nagmahal ang presyo ng langis at labis na apektado ang mga bansang nakadepende sa Gitnang Silangan ang suplay nila ng langis.

Maaaring lalala pa ang presyuhang sakaling maganap ang mga gustong mangyari ng Iran at Amerika na gantihan.

Hindi iniintindi ng Amerika ang suplay ng langis dahil gumagana na ang mga produksyon nila ng langis at 5 porsiyento na lang ang inaangkat nila sa mga Arabong bansa.

At natutuwa pa nga sila na maparalisa ang Gitnang Silangan sa suplay ng langis upang sila na ang magbenta sa mga kostumer na bansa ng mga nasa Arabong bansa.



ULTIMATUM

Ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

MGA OFW PANGALAGAAN

Masama naman ang epekto sa mahal kong Pinas ang pagmamahal ng mga produktong petrolyo dahil tiyak na magmamahal ang presyo ng lahat ng mga bilihin natin.

MASASAMANG EPEKTO

Milyon-milyon ang bilang ng mga OFW na nakakalat sa mga Arabong bansa.

Sa Iraq, tinatayang nasa 2,500 ang mga OFW at may libo ring nasa Iran bagama't pawang ilegal ang turing sa mga ito.

Kung maaapektuhan ang bansang Saudi Arabia, mahigit umangong 1 milyon ang mga OFW rito samantalang daan-daang libo naman ang nakakalat sa ibang mga Arabong bansa gaya ng Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Libya, Jordan, Egypt at iba pa.

Maaaring madiskaril ang kabuhayan ng mga OFW rito kaya naman, madiskaril din ang kabuhayan ng mga pamilya-OFW nila.

Katunayan, lahat ng mga may hawak ng American passport sa Iraq ay umaalis na sa mga oilfield sa Iraq bilang pangkaligtasang hakbang dahil maaaring target sila ng mga pagpatay.

Dito lamang, kitangkita kung paano mawawalan ng trabaho at kita ang mga OFW na labis na makaaapekto sa mga pamilya-OFW.

At maging ang remittance ng dolyar at piso na padala ng mga ito ay maaaring bumaba na makasama naman sa ekonomiya ng buong bansa.

Mababawasan o titigil ang kakayahang bumili ng mga pamilya-OFW, mapasasama ang pag-aaral ng anak ng mga ito at iba pa.

Kapag umuwi sa bansa ang mga madiskaril na OFW, mapapabilang naman sila sa milyon-milyong walang trabaho sa mahal kong Pinas.

KRIMEN

Napakasama rin ang epekto ng mga krimen sa ating mga OFW gaya ng nangyaring pagpatay kay Jeanelyn Padernal Villavende ng kanyang mga

asawang among Kuwaiti.

Naghuhugas-kamay ang mister na isang pulis at itinuro niya ang kanyang misis na may kagagawan subalit kinulong silang dalawa at sinampahan ng kaso ng mga awtoridad.

Maalaalang marami na ang napatay noon sa Kuwait na mga OFW kaya iniutos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang total deployment ban ng mga OFW sa Kuwait noon.

Ngayon, may partial deployment ban sa mga OFW gaya ng mga bagong aplikante at umuwi na tapos na ang mga kontrata.

Apektado ang maraming ganito ang kalagayan dahil muling mawawalan ng trabaho ang mga OFW habang mababaon sa naman sa utang ang mga bagong aprub na aplikante.

Ang pag-asang magkaroon ng katuparan ng pangarap para sa magaan na buhay ay nadi-diskaril para sa mga ganitong uri ng mga OFW.

At kabawasan din ito ng remittance na pina-kinabangan mismo ng pamahalaan, ng mga industriya sa Pinas at mga pamilya-OFW.

Alalahanin na nasa P1 trilyon ang kabuuang halaga taon-taon ang remittance ng mga OFW at dito nakikita ang papel nila sa ekonomiya ng bansa.

Kung nagpapatuloy ang mga giyera, krimen at pamumulitika o pananakop ng mga makapangyarihang bansa, maging sa mga negosyo ng mga bansang may OFW, asahan natin ang masamang epekto sa ating lahat.

Siguro, magandang mag-isip tayo kung paano maging produktibo ang mga OFW sa loob ng bansa at mabawasan ang mga kagipitan at kamatayang kanilang sinusuong sa ibang bansa.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 0922840-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@...