

DATE : 01-09-20

DAY : Thursday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



## DENR includes monitoring of smaller air pollution particles

To protect the health of Filipinos from particle pollution, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it is working to make air quality monitoring more comprehensive by including Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5, or finer particles that are 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter.

PM2.5 is a fine particle found in smoke and haze, and can be directly emitted from sources such as forest fires, or can form when gases are emitted from power plants, industries and vehicles, and react in the air. Once inhaled, these particles can affect the heart and lungs, and cause serious health problems.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said, "An administrative order is underway to make air quality

monitoring more inclusive. This will guarantee that the public is informed and protected from the effects of air pollution by developing the breakpoints of air quality index for PM2.5."

Compared to total suspended particulates (TSP) and PM10, PM2.5 is small in size, which allows them to stay in the air longer and travel farther, and can pass through the body's smaller airways deeper into the lungs, leading to respiratory and circulatory diseases, cancer and brain damage.

The DENR added it already took steps to intensify efforts in monitoring air and water quality in various parts of the country.

In line with the implementation of Republic Act 8749, or the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, Cimatu said a total of 101 air quality monitor-

ing stations are already operational across the country.

These stations measure pollutants such as TSP, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide.

Cimatu said the DENR also monitored the emissions of 14,538 firms out of the annual target of 15,989.

The DENR chief said that aside from Manila Bay and Boracay, the agency made sure that all other water bodies are protected pursuant to the provisions of RA 9275, or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.

"If we can rehabilitate Boracay and Manila Bay, we can give the same protection to all water bodies in the country by strictly adhering to our annual target and even going beyond it," Cimatu said.

- Rhodina Villanueva



## Bigger, better, cheaper landfills

**E**NVIRONMENT Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has ordered a review, and revision, of existing policy to pave the way for the establishment and operation of better, and bigger, sanitary landfills that even resource-poor local government units (LGUs) can afford.

To make this happen, the DENR chief has tasked Environment Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Benny D. Antiporda to review and recommend changes to Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order 2001-34, or the Implementing Rules and Regulation of Republic Act 9003.

The use of sanitary landfills as the method of garbage disposal is allowed under Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste

Management Act of 2000, which LGUs are duty-bound to follow.

A sanitary landfill is a solid-waste management facility that utilizes an engineered method of waste disposal, primarily for municipal solid waste. An "engineered" method of landfilling means that garbage is handled at a disposal facility that is designed, constructed, and operated, in a way that protects public health and the environment.

However, most LGUs complain that building and maintaining a sanitary landfill can be costly and, somewhat, complicated.

In a statement, Cimatu said he wants to make the establishment and operation of a sanitary landfill simple, and cheaper, without sacrificing the main objective of proper garbage disposal, which includes preventing leachate from polluting

waterways.

Cimatu lamented the fact that, two decades after RA 9003 was enacted, only about 10 percent of LGUs nationwide have sanitary landfills.

Cimatu had earlier said that effective solid-waste management may be expensive, but LGUs are not without options.

He said that adjacent municipalities or cities may pool their resources to establish a common sanitary landfill.

If money is a problem, LGUs may also access government loans, particularly the one being offered by the Development Bank of the Philippines under its green financing program, he added.

LGUs, he said, can come up with a scheme to pay back the loan, such as through collection of tipping fees. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



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## ESCALATING SECURITY RISKS IN MIDDLE EAST

# FORCED EVACUATION ORDERED; PH TROOPS TO ESCORT FILIPINOS OUT OF IRAQ

By the Inquirer Staff  
@Team\_Inquirer

The government on Wednesday ordered the mandatory evacuation of Filipino workers from Iraq as tensions between the United States and Iran escalated, with Iranian missiles slamming into US bases in retaliation for the US airstrike that killed the top Iranian military commander last week.

On President Duterte's instruction, the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad raised the alert level in Iraq to its highest on Wednesday morning and announced the order requiring Filipinos to leave the country due to escalating security risks.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in Manila confirmed the order to evacuate on Wednesday afternoon.

### Iran and Lebanon, too

Earlier, the President ordered Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to travel to the Middle East to oversee the repatriation. Cimatu is leaving for Doha, Qatar, on Thursday to set

up base there for the operation.

Except for Iraq, no security alert levels were raised elsewhere in the Middle East, according to DFA spokesperson Eduardo Meñez. But Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said the highest alert level had also been raised in Iran and Lebanon.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. met with the heads of the embassies of Iran and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday for discussion of the safety of Filipinos in the region.

The Philippine Embassy in Tehran is also preparing to extricate Filipinos from Iran. Cimatu said on Wednesday. In Iraq, more than a thousand Filipinos have signified their willingness to leave, he said.

Until Wednesday, the DFA had called only for voluntary repatriation of Filipinos in Iraq, except Kurdistan, which is far from Baghdad and relatively safe.

There are an estimated 1,600 Filipinos working in Iraq, including many who are in US facilities and commercial establishments.



Roy Cimatu

Cimatu said the Filipinos would first gather at the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad, where government vehicles would ferry them to safety.

"If the airport in Baghdad is still open, they will use that," he said.

Other options have been proposed, he said, including traveling by land to Amman, Jordan, or to the airport in Irbil, in Kurdistan, where they can take a plane to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates or to Doha and then another plane for their flight home.

In Iran, if the Filipinos can-

not fly out of the country, Cimatu said they would travel by land to Turkmenistan, then fly to Ankara in Turkey before finally heading to Manila.

### Military protection

Cimatu, a former military chief, said Philippine flags would be used to mark the vehicles carrying the Filipinos to indicate that they were not combatants.

The military will deploy Marine and Special Forces personnel to protect the evacuees, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Wednesday.

He said Mr. Duterte wanted the deployment of two battalions to assist in the evacuation. The troops will not engage in combat, but would only protect the evacuees, he said.

Goddes Libiran, assistant secretary for communications at the Department of Transportation, said the government might seek help from Philippine airlines for the evacuation of Filipinos in the Middle East.

Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific officials said they were

ready to help the government.

The Philippine Coast Guard said on Wednesday it was sending a vessel to the Middle East to ferry Filipinos home. The new patrol vessel BRP Gabriela Silangon was en route to the Philippines from France but had instead been ordered to head to the Middle East to help with the evacuation, the Coast Guard said.

The government has P1.89 billion in funds that it could tap to finance the evacuation, Assistant Budget Secretary Rolando Toledo said on Wednesday.

He said there was P1.29 billion in the DFA budget and another P100 million in the budget of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration that could be used for the operation.

"Yes, we have money, a standby fund ready. The government is ready if there is a need, a call for the repatriation of overseas Filipinos workers," Toledo told reporters in Malacañang.

Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said the government's primary concern was

bringing the Filipinos to a safer place and not flying them home at once.

He said not all of the Filipinos could be flown home at once and might be first taken to Saudi Arabia. There is a ship ready to take them to a safer place, he added.

### Labor traffic cut

Bello said senior labor officials, along with a rapid response team, would fly to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in the next few days to brief Filipinos there on the plan for their evacuation.

He said the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) would soon release a resolution imposing a complete ban on labor traffic to Iraq, Iran and Lebanon.

The POEA, he said, has already started scaling down deployment to other countries in the Middle East. —REPORTS FROM DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN, JHESSET O. ENAÑO, MIGUEL R. CAMUS, LEILA R. SALAVERIA, JOVIC YEE, JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE AND AP



# OFWs in Iraq repatriated today

By **ELIZABETH MARCELO**  
and **PIA LEE-BRAGO**

The mandatory evacuation of Filipinos in Iraq starts today after Alert Level 4, the highest crisis alert level, was raised yesterday over Middle Eastern countries due to the escalating tensions following the killing of an Iranian military leader by the

US last week.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who was designated by President Duterte as special envoy to the Middle East, said overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) would be evacuated either by land or air to Jordan and Dubai where conditions are more stable.

"If the airport in Baghdad

is still open, we will use that. Another option is by land going to Jordan. We will transport the OFWs to Dubai, Qatar or to Manila," Cimatu said at a press briefing.

He said there are around 4,400 Filipinos in Iraq. Of the number, 1,592 have signed up for repatriation.

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## OFWs From Page 1

Cimatu will fly to Baghdad today to personally oversee the repatriation of OFWs.

He advised the OFWs to go the Philippine embassy in Baghdad where they will be picked up and brought to the nearest airport.

Cimatu said even undocumented OFWs would be evacuated.

"Our teams will assist them, even those without passports. We will provide legal documents for them. The assembly area is the embassy in Baghdad," he said.

"If the airport is closed by tomorrow, we will be moving them out by land. We need to identify humanitarian corridors where they can pass safely," he added.

The mandatory repatriation of OFWs was ordered by the government as Alert Level 4 was raised in Iraq yesterday after Iran fired missiles on US

military bases.

No Filipinos were injured in the missile attacks, which were launched in retaliation for the death of Iranian military leader Qasem Soleimani in an airstrike by US forces last week.

US President Donald Trump admitted that he ordered the air strike to foil a supposed massive attack being planned by Soleimani's troops.

Cimatu said the government would set up a central logistics base in Dubai for easier repatriation of OFWs in other countries in the Middle East.

He pointed out that there are also US bases in Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain, which are possible targets of attack by Iran.

Cimatu said there are also plans to repatriate the OFWs in Iran.

"They are not in the line of

fire yet, but we are prepared to bring them out. From Iran, we plan to bring them to Turkey, then to Manila," he said.

"There is a plan for evacuation. Philippine embassies in Iran and Iraq have contingency plans," he added.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the mandatory evacuation is necessary because President Duterte's primary concern is the safety of Filipinos in the Middle East.

Panelo said there is a Philippine ship waiting in the Gulf region ready to accommodate the displaced Filipinos who want to be repatriated.

On Tuesday, Duterte said the government would abide by the provisions of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the Philippines and the US.

While he would allow the US military to use the Philippines for transit and refueling of military assets, Duterte said he would not allow Filipino soldiers to be deployed in conflict-stricken areas "unless

national interest calls for it."

## Phl troops deployment

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will deploy troops to Iraq to help in the repatriation of Filipinos, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday.

Lorenzana said a military ship, air assets and two battalions of soldiers would be part of the humanitarian mission.

"They will not go there to engage in combat, but to assist in the repatriation of Filipinos in Iraq," he told reporters.

Lorenzana said the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is coordinating with Arab states to pave the way for the Philippine troops to evacuate Filipinos from conflict zones in Iraq and Iran.

He said the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)'s newly acquired vessel from France, *BRP Gabriela Silang*, is preparing to sail either to Oman or



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Dubai for the government's repatriation program.

PCG commandant Admiral Joel Garcia said the ship is docked at the Malta port and ordered to divert to Jeddah.

Garcia said the repatriation of OFWs would be the first mission of *BRP Gabriela Silang* before she reaches Philippine waters.

In Mindanao, the military intensified the monitoring of terror groups amid possible attacks in support of Iran and Iraq.

AFP chief Lt. Gen. Felimon Santos said they are monitoring Islamic State-linked groups such as the Abu Sayyaf, Dawlah Islamiyah, Maute and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters based in Central Mindanao, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

### Rapid response teams

Rapid response teams will be deployed to Kuwait, Leba-

### NO. OF DOCUMENTED OFWs

Lebanon	33,424
<b>SAUDI ARABIA</b>	
Riyadh	368,431
Al Khobar	164,893
Jeddah	244,250
Bahrain	55,391
Kuwait	243,842
Qatar	244,736
Oman	59,944
Israel	29,473
Jordan	42,439
Libya	3,286
Iran	1,184
Iraq	2,191
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,174,611</b>

non, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates to oversee the evacuation of an estimated four million Filipinos in the Middle East, according to Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III.

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## OFWs From Page 4

Bello said he would fly to Qatar to seek its assistance in repatriating the Filipinos in Iran and Iraq.

"I will try to borrow from Qatar plane or boats for the relocation of OFWs," he said.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has disbursed P100 million to the different Philippine Overseas Labor Offices in the Middle East to fund the repatriation.

Labor group Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino said the administration placed the OFWs in the Middle East in danger when President Duterte declared that he would side with the US in case the conflict in Iran worsens.

Chargé d'Affaires Jomar Sadie of the Philippine embassy

in Baghdad said President Duterte ordered different government agencies to repatriate Filipinos in Iraq.

Alert Level 4 is issued when there is a large scale internal conflict or full blown external attack that requires mandatory evacuation, according to the DFA.

Saudi Arabia and Israel are not under Alert Level 4, the DFA said.

Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Eduardo Meñez said Alert Level 4 has been raised in Iraq following the government's assessment of the situation in the Middle East.

In an advisory on Tuesday, the embassy assured the Filipinos that the Philippine government is prepared to repatriate them amid the rising tensions

between the US and Iraq following a US airstrike on Friday that killed Iran's top military commander.

Filipinos affected by the crisis, including those who do not have employers and victims of human trafficking, are advised to come to the Philippine embassy in Baghdad.

The government urged Filipinos in the Middle East to remain vigilant, exercise caution and maintain situational awareness at all times.

There are around 1,600 Filipinos working in Iraq, mostly in the Kurdistan region. Several Filipinos in Baghdad are working in US and other foreign facilities.

- With Mayen Jaymalin, Christina Mendez, Jaime Laude, Robertzon Ramirez, Helen Flores, Paolo Romero, Roel Pareño, Ding Cervantes

# Leave Iran, Iraq now, Duterte orders Pinoyos

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

**P**RESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the mandatory evacuation of all Filipinos in Iraq and Iran as tensions between Washington and Tehran continued to escalate, his spokesman announced on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters, Salvador Panelo said the Philippine government intends to move Filipinos from Iraq and Iran to a safe place, possibly Qatar.

"The President has ordered the mandatory evacuation of all Filipinos in those areas to put them in safety, out of harm's way. That's precisely why the two members of the Cabinet were sent there to liaison with the host country, to prepare for the repatriation of our countrymen," Panelo added during a media interview in Malacañang.

"They have to be in a safe place, in a secure place. *Pinagpipilian yata nila* (I heard that they are choosing) Qatar and other places," he said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Wednesday confirmed the highest threat alert was raised in Iraq over the escalating US-Iran tensions.

"As a result of the government's coordination meetings on the situation in the Middle East in the past few days, the alert level in the entire Iraq has been raised to alert level 4 calling for mandatory evacuation," according to the DFA.

Alert level 4 is issued when there is





■ PINOYS FROM A1

# Leave Iran, Iraq now, Duterte orders Pinoys

large-scale internal conflict or a full-blown external attack, it said.

Citing a statement of Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Panelo said the government had already deployed a ship to assist in the repatriation of Filipinos in the Middle East.

"Per Secretary Lorenzana, there is ship, which we recently bought, coming from Malta and is already on its way to the Middle East. And then we have three frigates going to the same direction to secure that ship. And there are also 200 ships ready to go," he added.

"The instruction [of the President] has not changed. It is the repatriation of the Filipinos in the areas of conflict. Right now, the concern is the evacuation of the Filipinos to a safe place," the Palace spokesman said.

Speaking to reporters also on Wednesday, Lorenzana said two battalions each coming from the Philippine Marine Corps and the Special Operations Command would be deployed to the Middle East for the repatriation effort.

But he clarified that the troops would not be sent out "to engage in combat [with] anybody" and would only be there to assist in the repatriation of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), especially those in Iraq.

Lorenzana said the Philippines was still in the planning stage for the deployment while DFA Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. was still negotiating with other countries for documents required for the entry of soldiers and military logistics.

"[We are prioritizing] those in Iraq since this is a challenge and because some Filipinos don't want to leave their jobs, because they also asked what they are going to do in the Philippines," he added.

"Hopefully, we will be able to convince them to return to the Philippines if their lives are indeed at risk," Lorenzana said.

He pointed out that combat soldiers were tapped because they could defend themselves when ambushed by hostile forces.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said the country's first-ever offshore patrol vessel (OPV) was all set for its first-ever mission — repatriation of the OFWs in the Middle East.

The OPV can ferry approximately 500 people at one time and is more than capable to perform beyond its contractual specification of 20 knots.

It has a range of 8,000 nautical miles at 15 knots and an endurance of up to five weeks of operation.

"The OPV has an excellent sea-keeping ability and maneuverability on top of the great comfort it offers for people onboard.

"Rest assured that the PCG will ensure the safety of our OFWs," PCG Admiral Joel Garcia said.

Armed Forces chief Felimon Santos Jr. said they were awaiting approval diplomatic clearances so they could position their troops and assets in their recommended locations.

Among countries that the Philippines will be asking for clearances are Saudi Arabia and Qatar, according to Santos.

Though he admitted that risks are expected for Philippine troops since Manila is an ally of Washington, Santos said he had considered these risks "very little," adding that "Iran would not like to involve other countries just like what they did this morning [to a US presence in bases in Iraq]."

The tensions between the US and Iran continued after a targeted airstrike in Baghdad, Iraq killed Iran's top general, Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, on Friday.

Locsin said the Philippine Embassy in Washington had reported that no Filipinos were hurt in Iran's missile attack on two military bases in Iraq housing American troops.

"So far [Philippine Embassy in the] US said no Filipinos found to have been hurt. But search and damage assessment not complete. [Report came] From Washington DC PE (Philippine Embassy)," Locsin said on Twitter.

The Philippine Embassy in Baghdad has been tasked to effect the mandatory evacuation of Filipinos estimated to be around 1,640 in that country.

"In accordance with the instructions of [President Duterte], Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu is set to go to the Middle East to oversee the repatriation," the DFA said.

There are about 450 undocumented and 1,190 documented Filipinos in the region, it added.

"More than half are found in the relatively safer Kurdistan region and around 847 in the Baghdad area," according to the DFA.

"In Baghdad area, many working with US and other foreign facilities, in other areas, particularly in Erbil, in regular commercial establishments," it said.

The embassy has suspended the consular mission to Erbil from January 9 to 12 until further notice.

Filipinos in Iraq were requested to check the mission's advisories.

"Filipinos in Iraq are strongly advised to coordinate closely with the Philippine Embassy and their employers in the event mandatory evacuation will be necessary," the embassy said.

Meanwhile, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) assured that the government has enough funds for the repatriation of the OFWs in the Middle East.

During the weekly economic news briefing in Malacañang, Budget Assistant Secretary Rolando Toledo said the government could tap funds from the 2020 appropriation of the DFA and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), which could total around P1.8 billion.

The DBM official said the P13-billion contingent fund in the 2020 budget might also be utilized subject to the approval of the President.

The Department of Finance is looking into possible funds from other sources, he added.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) is eyeing alternative labor markets that can absorb the OFWs from the Middle East.

In a news conference also on Wednesday, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello 3rd said negotiations were in progress for deployment of Filipino workers to other countries.

"We are now working out for alternative markets just in case we have to repatriate two million plus OFWs. We are already fast-tracking negotiations with alternative countries to deploy them, like China, Russia, Canada, Germany and Japan," Bello added.

There are 2, 174,611 documented Filipino workers in the Middle East, including Israel, but with most of them in Saudi Arabia.

For the OFWs who would prefer to go home, Bello said an alternative livelihood program has been prepared for them by Mindanao Development Authority Secretary Emmanuel Piñol in coordination with the OWWA.

In the Senate, Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, chairman of the chamber's economic affairs committee, called on the government to closely monitor the movement of prices of various commodities amid the US-Iran tensions.

He said the latest developments in the Middle East could possibly affect local oil prices and trigger the rise in prices of commodities in the country.

**WITH REPORTS FROM  
DEMPSEY REYES,  
BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO,  
WILLIAM B. DEPASUPIL,  
RAFFY AYENG  
AND JAVIER JOE ISMAEL**





## EDITORIAL

### BAKWITAN NA SA MIDDLE EAST

DAPAT na makiisa ang lahat ng overseas Filipino worker sa Iran, Iraq, Lebanon at iba pang maaapektuhan ng giyerang nag-sisimula sa Gitnang Silangan.

Pinaliral na ang Alert level 4 na nanga-hulugan ng sapilitang pagbabakwit sa nasabing mga bansa makaraang magsimulang gumanti ang Iran sa pamamagitan ng pagpapakawala ng missiles sa Iraq makaraang mailibing si Iran General Qessam Soleimani na pinatay ng mga Amerikano.

Maging ang mga OFW sa Israel ay dapat na ring magbantay dahil kabilang ang nasabing bansa sa nais na glyerahin ng Iran.

Kumikilos na ang mga embahada o kaulang opisina ng pamahalaang Pilipinas sa pangunguna ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu para sa pagbabakwit ng halos 3,000 OFW sa Iran at Iraq at ipinadala na ang BFP Gabriela Silang na barko ng Philippine Coast Guard sa mga pier ng Oman at Dubai para sasakyan ng mga nasabing OFW.

Nagbigay na rin ng mga kontak sa telepono, email at facebook ang mga embahada at opisina para sa madaliang pag-uusap at pagkilos ng mga OFW at opisyal ng pamahalaan para sa pagbabakwit.

Matatandaang inutos ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagbabakwit makaraang irekomenda ito ni Cimatu nang makitang delikado na para sa mga OFW ang kalagayan sa nasabing mga bansa.

Nauna rito, nagbakwit na ang mga may pasaporteng Amerikano at ilang Europeo sa Iraq upang makaiwas sa banta sa kaniilang buhay at kaguluhan.



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TAMA lang ang kautusan ni Panguilong Rodrigo Duterte para sa sapilitang pagbabakwit ng mga overseas Filipino worker sa bansang Iraq at Iran kaugnay ng nagsimula nang giyera sa mga nasabing bansa laban sa mga Amerikano.

Alert level 4 na ang pinairal ng Philippine Embassy na siyang mangangasiwa para sa pagbabakwit.

Maganda naman at gusto ng mga OFW ang mabakwit.

Ang bagong barkong BRP Gabriela Silang ang gagamitin para isakay ang mga Filipino at inatasang dadaong sa mga pier ng Oman at Dubai.

Ang Dubai at Oman ay magkaharap na bansa at nasa pagitan nito ang Gulf of Oman na papasok sa Persian Gulf na nasa pagitan ng Iran at Saudi Arabia.

Kadikit na bansa ang Dubai ng Iran.

#### MISSILE ATTACK

Magkadikit ang bansang Iraq at Iran at nagpakawala na ng maraming missile ang Iran laban sa mga base militar ng mga Amerikano na matatagpuan sa Iraq.

Ang base militar umano ang istasyon ng mga Amerikano na pumatay sa pamamagitan ng mga drone kay Iran No. 2 man General Qassem Soleimani.

Bukod sa pagsisimula na missile attack, maaaring rerebak ang America na nagsasabing sisirain nila ang 52 lugar sa Iran para maparalisa ito.

Sinasabi naman ng Iran na isasama na nilang atakehin ang bansang Israel.

Sa ganitong sitwasyon, tiyak na lalawakang giyera at hindi na lang Iraq at Iran ang madadamay kundi ang iba pang mga Arabong bansa.

Pansamantala, kaya namang kargahin ng lisang barko, kahit paano, ang mga Filipino na nasa Iraq at nasa Iran naman na itinuturing na ilegal ang pagpunta roon.

#### LAHAT MAGBAKWIT

Ligal at ilegal ang paninirahan, iniutos na ang pagbabakwit.

Sinabihan na ng Embahada ng Pilipinas na kumuha na ang mga Filipino ng mga dokumento, lalo na ang mga passport, mula sa kanilang mga employer para gamitin sa ligtas na pagbibiyaha palabas ng Iraq.



NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

## PAGBABAKWIT SA MIDDLE EAST TAMA

Ang mga walang employer, maging ang mga ilegal ang paninirahan doon, ay sinabihan nang direktang kumontak sa embahada para sa ang mga taong embahada na ang pupunta at tutulong sa kanila para kumilos palabas ng Iraq.

Ibinigay ng embahada ang mga kontak na ito para magamit ng mga OFW: Philippine Embassy: 07816066822 (Jom); 07516167838 (Jerome); 07518764665 (Jobbi); at 07508105240 (Richard).

Maaari ring mag-email sa Baghdad.pe@dfa.gov.ph, embaphilbaghdad.secretary1@gmail.com, at ang official Facebook page nito.

#### PAMILYA OFW KUMILOS DIN

Habang hindi pa putol ang mga komunikasyon, malaki ang maitutulong ng mga pamilya-OFW na nasa bansa o nasa ibang bansa para kontakin ang mga OFW sa Iraq at Iran para sa sapilitang pagbabakwit.

Hindi dapat na paabutin ang lahat sa oras na putol na ang lahat ng linya sa komunikasyon.

Ang totoo, nagaganap ito sa mga OFW sa Libya na tinatamaan din ng madugong giyera.

Putol ang mga komunikasyon at hirap na hirap na ang embahada ng Pilipinas sa Libya para hanapin ang lahat ng mga OFW roon para tulungan na maligtas sa anomang uri ng kapahamakan.

Hindi dapat ganito ang mangyari sa Iraq at Iran.

Naroon na nga rin si Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na namumuno sa pagkilos para sa sapilitang pagbabakwit.

Inatasan ni Pang. Digong si Cimatu na pamunuan ang pagkilos sa pagbabakwit dahil beterano na siya rito at naging matagumpay ang mga pagkilos nito sa nakaraang mga pagbabakwit.

#### HINDI MAKAIMPERYALISTA

Nang magpahayag si Pang. Digong ng suporta sa Amerika sa girian ng Amerika at Iran, hindi nangangahulugan ito ng pagkampi sa imperyalistang mga Kano.

Pangunahing para sa kapakanan ito ng mga Filipino at hindi sa giyerang inilulunsad ng mga Kano para sa kanilang sariling interes.

Para sa kapakanan at kaligtasan ng mga OFW ang pinag-uusapan at pupwedeng taktikal na pakikipagtulungan o kampiyan ang magaganap.

Malinaw na hindi maasahan na dalhin ng mga Iraqi at Iranian sa labas ng kanilang mga teritoryo ang mga OFW at maaaring ang mga Kano ang makatutulong pa para sa pagbabakwit.

Sa ganitong sitwasyon dapat iniintindi ang pagkilos ni Pang. Digong ukol sa nagaganap na sigalot sa Gitnang Silangan.

Hindi porke kumampi ang pamahalaang Duterte sa isang panig ay 'yun na 'yun.

Ang mga kritiko, dapat na ring tumulong sa halip na magngangawa at batikos nang batikos.

Tumulong sifa sa pagkilos para sa pagbabakwit at kung wala silang maitutulong dito, para ano ang kanilang mga dinadaldal?

#### PAGKAKAISANG KAILANGAN

Nakataya ang buhay, kalayaan at hanapbuhay ng mga OFW sa Iraq at Iran.

Posibleng maapektuhan din ang mga nasa Israel dahil sa banta ng Iran laban dito.

Paano kung sisiklab ang malawakang giyera sa Gitnang Silangan halimbawang sasali rin ang Saudi Arabia na pangunahing kalaban ng Iran at nagbibigay ng base military sa mga Kano na panggagalingan ng atake laban sa Iran?

Pagkakaisa ang kailangan at hindi ang away-pulitika.

Sabay-sabay tayong kumilos para sa mga OFW at para sa ating bansa.

oOo

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



# Indigenous peoples OK construction of Kaliwa Dam

Construction of the Kaliwa Dam now has the approval of indigenous peoples (IPs) to be affected by the P12.2-billion China-funded mega dam project, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) said.

In a statement, the MWSS said consultations with IPs of Quezon and Rizal last December ended positively, with the communities adopting a

resolution consenting to the project.

"This stage, which is one of several stages in the free prior and informed consent (FPIC) process, shows that the IPs are able to conduct their own independent and collective discussions and decision-making in an environment where they did not feel intimidated and where they had sufficient time to discuss in their cultur-

ally appropriate way, matters affecting their rights, livelihoods, knowledge, traditions, governance systems, natural resources," MWSS said.

"This also means that MWSS adhered to the FPIC framework and that the rights of the IPs are being respected by making sure that they understood all of the implications of the project before they give their consent," it added.

MWSS is responding to a recent claim that the government's loan agreements with China for the Kaliwa Dam contain onerous provisions.

On concerns that Kaliwa Dam will adversely affect thousands, MWSS has clarified that given the safety issues identified in an integrated Kaliwa and Laiban Dam System, the Kaliwa Dam project to be implemented has been adjusted without the Laiban Dam being built.

"The social and environmental impacts of the stand-alone Kaliwa Dam project are minimal. Even as there are risks which are usual for any construction project, mitigation measures and safeguards have been put in place," MWSS

said.

On questions regarding the viability of the project, MWSS maintained that it was first evaluated by the Public-Private Partnership Center as a viable PPP project.

It also passed screening and evaluation thrice by the National Economic and Development Authority before it was included in the basket of official development assistance loans from China, the MWSS said.

"The national government's effort to see this project implemented is clear, with only one moving vision - to increase the available drinking water to Metro Manila in the short term because of the projected supply deficit," the MWSS declared.

Furthermore, the water

demand analysis used for the planning of Kaliwa Dam has shown that water supply capacity from Angat reservoir and some other smaller sources will not be sufficient to satisfy the water demand of Metro Manila between 2020 and 2025.

Taking into account a supply buffer of 15 percent, the Angat supply capacity would be insufficient for 2020.

"These numbers illustrate the need for a large water supply source. The events since March 2019 has only confirmed said projections," MWSS said.

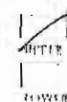
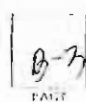
The Kaliwa Dam is expected to provide Metro Manila with 600 million liters of water per day.

— Louise Maureen Simeon



STRATEGIC  
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THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A PHILIPPINE PAPER  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



09-09-20

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# MWSS closer to securing P permit for Kaliwa Dam

By MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR

**M**oving closer to obtaining the final approval it needs for the ₱12-billion Kaliwa Dam project, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) said the Indigenous People (IPs) and Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) of Rizal and Quezon Provinces recently adopted a resolution of consent (Resolusyon ng Pagpayag) to the controversial project.

But, the head of Dumagat-Remontado tribe in Daraitan, Tanay, Rizal denied this, saying that MWSS is "lying" and was only able to get the consent of the minority of the IP communities in both provinces.

In a statement, MWSS said that it got the 'Resolusyon ng Pagpayag' after conducting a series of consultations with the IPs, who have previously expressed their strong opposition of the project which they said would destroy their much protected ancestral lands.

To recall, MWSS needs one last approval to formally start the construction of the Kaliwa Dam, following the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) issuance of environmental clearance certificate (ECC) to the project.

This approval is the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

MWSS said that securing the 'Resolusyon ng Pagpayag' is just one of the several stages in getting the FPIC.

This means that IPs are able to conduct their own independent and collective discussions and decision-making in an environment where they did not feel intimidated, and where they had sufficient time to discuss in their culturally appropriate way, matters affecting their rights, livelihoods, knowledge, traditions, governance systems, natural resources.

"Through this Statement, the MWSS manifests that it has exerted and continue to exert extraordinary diligence imposed

by law and remain cautious under all circumstances in the conduct of its business affairs in addressing the urgent need to develop a new water source for Metro Manila," MWSS said.

In a phone interview, Marcelino Tena, Head of Samahan ng mga Katutubong Agta/Dumagat, said that while the consultations indeed took place, he said that a lot of the members of the IP communities didn't give their consent to the project.

"There are more of us who said no to the project than those who said yes. And those who said yes were invited to a separate room during the consultation meetings," Tena said. "From the very start, we already said no to this project. Our position is non-consent from day one".

Reacting to the 'Resolusyon ng Pagpayag' that MWSS supposedly obtained from the IP communities, Tena said "it's all lies" on the part of the agency.

"I have a new resolution from the community saying that we don't accept this project," Tena said.



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# INQUIRER

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SUB:

## DON'T SLIP OUT OF COUNTRY, DU30 WARNS OFFICIALS BEHIND WATER CONCESSION DEALS

By Lella B. Salaverria  
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan  
@Team\_Inquirer

President Duterte on Wednesday warned officials behind what he called onerous water concession agreements against slipping out of the country, saying he would make sure they "will never come back as a whole person."

Mr. Duterte threatened to jail these officials as he once more railed against the contracts with Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. that he said contained provisions that violated the antigraft law.

"As a lawyer, when I looked at the contract, it was full of shit because there in that document is the exact copy of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices. Your crime, it could be plunder or it could be syndicated or estafa on a large scale. In which case, it is non-bailable," Mr. Duterte said during the oath-taking of newly appointed officials.

"If you want to go out? Go ahead. But you will be a fugitive for all time. And I guarantee you, you will never come back as a whole person," he added.

The President has since ordered the drafting of new water concession contracts and said on Wednesday that he had given the go signal to lawyers to present the draft of the new

contracts to the concessionaires.

He is giving them a choice, not an ultimatum, he claimed.

"I told them, 'Sign the new contract because if you don't, I will nationalize, take over the operations, and I will send you to jail.' I have two years to do that and I can do it," he said.

But even if they sign the new contract, the President said he would not be able to guarantee that no charges would be filed against them.

"All that I can really say about this, I am not the only Filipino who is interested in the prosecution of crimes," he said.

"Pray that nobody will be interested because I will really—if somebody will—if I decide to go after you, I will see to it that a billionaire goes to prison," Mr. Duterte added.

The government is targeting new agreements with the water concessionaires within six months, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said.

Guevarra said the government, led by the Department of Justice (DOJ), would come up with a new concession agreement "that has no legally objectionable provisions, is fair and equitable, more transparent, and advantageous to the consuming public."

"I see no good reason why the water concessionaires will play hardball and induce the government to take extraordinary measures, like taking

over their operations or nationalizing the water distribution service," he told reporters.

In another interview, Guevarra said the DOJ would hold consultations with economic officials and private financial experts to improve the existing agreements.

"Improving on the economic aspect like putting more transparency in rate-setting, what factors should and should not be included, these would be subject to further negotiation but we may need assistance from experts," he said in a television interview on Wednesday.

"I would say maybe a period of six months would probably be enough to firm up [the new contracts]," Guevarra added.

He admitted that the DOJ has not prepared a draft new agreement so far, only a matrix of "disadvantageous, if not onerous" provisions to be deleted.

The DOJ red-flagged the provisions that prohibit the government from interfering in setting water rates; allow the concessionaires to ask for compensation in case of they are barred from hiking rates, and allow the companies to pass on to consumers expenses not directly related to water distribution.

The original agreements entered into by the Ramos administration in 1997 will terminate in 2022. **INQ**





# Angat will no longer suffice by 2020—MWSS

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

**W**ATER supply from Angat Dam, based on its maximum capacity plus other smaller sources, cannot meet the demand of Metro Manila between 2020 and 2025; thus, the need to build the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has said.

The 60-year-old dam provides about 97 percent of raw water supply for Metro Manila and some nearby towns, with more than 12 million people. Its maximum supply capacity is 4,000 million liters per day.

Aside from the raw water supply from Angat Dam, the private water concessionaires—Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co.—source water from Laguna de Bay, and during an emergency are allowed by the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) to extract water from deep wells.

In a statement, the MWSS said

the construction of the Kaliwa Dam in Quezon province, a P12-billion project funded by China through Official Development Assistance (ODA), is being fast-tracked to prevent another water crisis in Metro Manila.

“The water demand analysis used for the planning of Kaliwa Dam showed that the water supply capacity from Angat reservoir and some other smaller sources will not be sufficient to satisfy the water demand of Metro Manila between 2020 and 2025. Taking into account a supply buffer of 15 percent,

the Angat supply capacity will be insufficient before 2020. These numbers illustrate the need for a large water supply source. The events since March 2019 have only confirmed said projections,” said the statement released by the Policy, Planning and Public Relations Department of the MWSS.

Responding to questions raised on the viability of the project, the MWSS said it has been properly evaluated: first by the Public-Private Partnership Center (PPPC) as a viable PPP project, and later hurdling the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) screening and evaluation. These happened in 2013 under the Built-Transfer modality as an integrated dam system or the Kaliwa Low Dam plus Laiban; second, in 2014 as the stand-alone Kaliwa Dam Project to be implemented either as a national government-funded project, or as an ODA loan, until it was included in the basket of ODA loans from China.

“The national government’s effort to see this project implemented is clear, with only one moving





### 'New 'equitable' contract won't kill Maynilad, Manila Water'

THE "more equitable" contract that the government is drafting for the Manila Water Co. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. is "not something that will kill" the two water concessionaires, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said Wednesday.

Instead, he said the new contract will only eliminate the "onerous and highly disadvantageous" provisions under the present supply deals of the two water utilities.

"That's a good contract. It's not something that will kill the water concessionaires," Guevarra said in an interview with ABS-CBN News Channel.

He estimated that six

months would be enough to "firm up everything," present the contract to the water concessionaires, "and probably they can react already within that period."

President Duterte earlier offered Maynilad and Manila Water the option to accept a new concession agreement that will replace existing provisions that "rip off" consumers.

Should the companies refuse, Duterte said he would order the nationalization of the water distribution system and push through with his plan to prosecute officials of the firms for economic plunder or large-scale estafa. - *Inquirer.net*



Isasapinal sa loob ng 6 buwan

# BAGONG WATER DEALS

**T**ARGET ng pamahalaan na isapinal ang bagong kontrata sa water concessionaires Maynilad at Manila Water sa loob ng anim na buwan, ayon kay Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra.

Inamin ni Guevarra, na bahagi ng team na naatasang magbalangkas ng revised agreements sa dalawang water firms, na naghanda lamang ang grupo ng 'matrix' document— na tinatampukan ng sinasabing 'onerous' provisions na kailangang alisin sa kasalukuyang kasunduan.

"Well that contract does not exist as of the moment in the sense that we have something like the original water concession agreement," wika ni Guevarra.

"We have simply prepared a matrix of what provisions ought to be deleted because they're highly disadvantageous, if

not onerous, by the Philippine government," dagdag ng kalihim.

"I would say maybe a period of six months would be probably enough para ma-firm up (to firm them up)."

Kamakalawa ay nagalok si Pangulong Duterte sa dalawang water firms ng bagong concession agreements na hindi naglalaman ng mga probisyon na makasasama sa gobyerno at sa publiko.

Ayon kay Duterte, dapat tanggapin ng dala-

wang water firms ang bagong kasunduan dahil kung hindi ay iutos niya ang military takeover sa operasyon ng dalawang water utilities.

Subalit kahit tanggapin ng dalawang water concessionaires ang bagong kasunduan ay wala aniyang katiyakan na makakatakas ang mga ito sa pag-uusig.

"I cannot stop anyone, especially a Filipino and a consumer of water, to file any case to damages or anything," anang

Pangulo. "Wala akong pakialam diyari I leave it to anybody's choice to run after or not to run after."

Paulit-ulit na binatikos ni Duterte ang kasunduan na binuo noon pang 1997 makaraang matuklasan na hindi makatarungan ang mga probisyon nito.

"The provisions include the amendment that prohibits the government from interfering in the rate-setting mechanism of the firms," ani Guevarra.

**PMRT**





## LEBEL NG TUBIG SA ANGAT DAM, HINDI PA RIN SAPAT!

**ISANG** magandang balita para sa ating mga magsasaka, dahil, isang malaking tulong kung sapat ang tubig, upang sila ay magkaroon ng saganang ani, dumating man ang tag-tuyot sa mga hinaharap na buwan.

Base sa Hydrological Information ng Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC), nasa 204.29 meters ang level ng tubig sa Angat Dam, base sa pinakahuling ulat (Enero 8, 2020, 8:00AM). Humigit na sa Angat Dam's Minimum Operating Water Level (MOWL) of 180 meters, ngunit hindi pa natin naabot ang inasam na target goal na 212.00 meters, kaya kinakailangang ang pagtitipid upang may magamit sa panahon ng tag-init.

Babala ni Dr. Seville David, Jr. ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB), palagi pa rin nating isaisip ang pagtitipid, sapagkat, gaano man karami ang tubig, kapag hindi tayo marunong magti-

pid, siguradong magkakaroon ng kakulangan sa tubig. Kaya, ang tamang nating gawin, "Makiisa sa Pagtitipid at Huwag Mag-Aksaya sa Tubig."

Sa ngayon, hindi pa rin natin naaabot ang 212 meters, kaya huwag abusuhin o gawing "UNLI" ang paggamit ng tubig sapagkat wala tayong maaasahang tubig-ulan sa panahon ng tag-init.

Ayon kay Executive Director David, "Sapat pa rin ang tubig sa Angat Dam para sa lahat ng pangangailangan, maging sa mga irigasyon. Ngunit, dahil sa pagpasok ng tag-init, marapat lamang na ang bawat isa, ay makapag - isip ng mabuting paraan kung paano limitahan ang pag gamit ng tubig. Kailangang maintindihan at pakadibdin ang kategorya ng pagtitipid."

Dagdag pa ni Executive Director David, "noong 1968 naisagawa ang dam kaya nasa apat-napu't-pitong taon na ngayon. Dati-rati, kakaunti-

lang ang mga establishment, industriya at mga taong naninirahan sa Metro Manila, iilan lang ang kumokunsumo ng tubig na nanggagaling sa Angat Dam kaya sapat ang tubig kahit sa panahon ng tag-init."

Kailangang alamin ang konsumo sa tubig sa araw-araw na mga gawain, tulad ng paliligo, pagsesepilyo at paghuhugas ng kamay. Hindi maiiwasan na mas maraming gagamit ng tubig sa pagpapaligo at pagpapalit ng kasuotan kapag sila'y napa-wisan.



DR. HILDA C. ONG

Tamang pamamaraan sa paggamit ng tubig

\* Gumamit ng palanggana sa paghuhugas ng gulay, prutas, isda, kame at iba pang-sangkap sa pagluluto. Huwag hayaang tuluy-tuloy ang daloy ng tubig mula sa bukas na gripo.

\* Alamin kung anong oras magluluto at kung anong oras ilalabas ang mga pinalamig o frozen foods mula sa freezer upang matunaw ang yelo sa room temperature. Aksaya sa tubig kung hayaan patuluan ng tubig mula sa gripo. Maaari rin

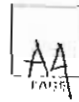
gumamit ng electric fan kung nais mapabilis ang pag-defrost.

\* Dahil sa climate change, sa panahon ng tag-init, paminsan-minsan makakaranas ng kaunting pag-ulan, sahurin ang tubig-ulan:

\* Sahurin din ang tubig na nanggaling sa aircon at gamitin sa pang-flush o pagbuhos sa banyo o kaya pandilig sa halaman o paglinis ng garahe.

\* Ipunin muna ang mga damit at gawing isa o dalawang beses sa isang linggo ang paglalabada.





## Keep Pasig ferry convenient and comfortable – Go

SEN. Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go has called on concerned government agencies to ensure that the newly reopened Pasig River Ferry Service remains convenient and comfortable for commuters.

Go made his call during a meeting on Tuesday as he also asked the agencies to improve the cleanliness of the river to guarantee a safe and smooth journey for passengers.

“I implore agency heads to make sure that the ferry services will be convenient and comfortable for the people,” Go said.

“Please make sure that the ferry service is clean and ensure smooth experience for the riding public. Let us all help in cleaning our river so that every passenger will have a better experience,” he added.

After experiencing decline in the previous decades due to the pollution of the river, the Pasig River Ferry Service was revived in 2014 to alleviate traffic congestion in Metro Manila.

In April 2018, President Rodrigo Duterte approved a proposal to institutionalize the Pasig River Ferry Convergence Program, which includes plans to build 17 more stations for the Pasig River ferry system in the next four years from the current 12 stations.

The Metro Manila Development Authority presently operates the transport service while the Department of Public Works and Highways is responsible for the dredging

operations in Pasig River.

Go has earlier expressed his willingness to push for the provision of additional boats.

Currently, the ferry service has a fleet of seven boats. Several local government units and private companies have also committed to donate additional ferries.

Meanwhile, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said it would pool funds in accordance with Go’s suggestion for government to subsidize the ferry services for one year to provide more affordable fares for the commuters.

“To avoid traffic, we will put additional ferries. We have already opened, we have already the ferry boats, fare is free until the end of January, but after that, the President and I will make sure that as much as possible, the passenger will only pay at cost so they could save on expenses and on their time,” he said.

The Laguna Lake Development Authority was tasked to monitor discharges from nearby factories and issue violation receipts to rule breakers.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government will also be tapped to enjoin *barangay* (villages) in maintaining the cleanliness of the environment surrounding the river.

Go reminded residents of Metro Manila, however, that keeping Pasig River clean is a shared responsibility of everyone.

**JAVIER JOE ISMAEL**



**PASIG FERRY AT YOUR SERVICE** SEN. Christopher Lawrence ‘Bong’ Go calls on concerned government agencies to ensure that the newly reopened Pasig River Ferry Service remains convenient and comfortable for commuters. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Senator Bong Go surveys the site of the Pasig River Ferry Service.

# Use Pasig ferry, Go urges public

Senator tells gov't agencies to ensure convenience and comfort of passengers

**SENATOR Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go urged concerned government agencies to make sure that the newly reopened Pasig River Ferry Service remains convenient and comfortable for commuters.**

The senator also asked the agencies to improve the cleanliness of the river to guarantee safe and smooth journey for passengers.

"I implore agency heads to make sure that the ferry services will be convenient and comfortable for the people," Go said.

"Please make sure na malinis ang ferry service at smooth ang experience ng mga sasakay. Magtulungan rin tayo na linisin ang ating mga ilog para mas maayos ang experience ng bawat pasahero," he added.

After experiencing a decline in the previous decades due to the pollution of the river, the Pasig River Ferry Service was revived in 2014 to alleviate traffic congestion in Metro Manila.

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The transport service is

presently operated by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), while the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is responsible for the dredging operations in Pasig River.

In past interviews, Go had expressed his willingness to push for the provision of additional boats.

"Kung kailangan pa pong madagdagan pa ang mga ferry, very much willing akong tumulong sa inyo," Go said.

Currently, the ferry service has a fleet of seven boats. Several local government units and private companies have also committed to donate additional ferries.

Meanwhile, Go also suggested during the meeting that the ferry services be subsidized by the government for one year to provide more affordable fares for the commuters. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) agreed, saying that they will pool funds for the subsidy.

"Pinakiusapan din po natin na gawing until January 31 ang libreng pamasahe nito o hangga't kaya ng budget ng MMDA. I urge the MMDA and the Department of Transportation (DOTr) na maging libre ito o maging minimal ang bayad dahil nakakatulong talaga ito sa ating mga mamamayan," Go said in past interviews.

"Para iwas sa trapik, dagdagan natin 'yung ferry. Meron na tayong binuksan, mayroon na tayong ferry boats, libre hanggang katapusan (ng January) pero pagkatapos niyan, sisiguraduhin namin ni Pangulo na as much as possible, 'yung at cost lang ang babayaran para kayo makatipid sa gastos at makatipid rin sa panahon.

"Asahan ninyo na full support ako rito at kung papaano magiging mas maayos at komportable ang transportation service na ito para mapakinabangan ng mga Pilipino," he added.

To ensure cleanliness of the river, the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) was tasked to monitor discharges from nearby factories and issue violation receipts to rule breakers.

For a more holistic approach, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will also be tapped to enjoin barangays in maintaining the cleanliness of the environment surrounding the river.

Go reminded residents of Metro Manila, however, that keeping Pasig River clean is a shared responsibility of everyone.

"Lilinisandinnatin 'ung Pasig River pero importante na magtulungan tayo at maging disiplinado, 'wag tayong magtapon," the senator said.



## Go: Use Pasig Ferry Service

Tells gov't to ensure convenience, comfort of passengers

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## Manila Bay Region Vision 2050

A new year is ahead of us — a new opportunity for reform and growth. I remember a professor at Harvard University who told us the 21st century will be a “Re’-century to Renew, Redevelop, Reuse, Recycle, Reengineer, Replan and Redesign” our communities and cities. As an architect and urban planner, I cannot help but envision the possibilities that could transpire this year and in the coming years. The Philippines is one of the world’s fastest growing economies. It is No. 1 in marine biodiversity, call centers, sailors and seafarers and musicians; No. 2 in BPO or business process outsourcing and geothermal energy; and No. 4 in gold reserves and shipbuilding. It has the fifth longest coastline in the world, and it is fifth in all other mineral resources and 12th in human resources. Our country is blessed with immense natural resources and talent. In fact, if we address corruption and criminality, the Philippines could be the 19th top economy in the world by 2025 and the 16th top economy by 2050. Yet in spite of its growth potential, our country’s overall development is hampered by overpopulation, unemployment, inequality, traffic congestion, transportation problems, natural disasters and obsolete planning and development influences, among others.

In 2000, Metro Manila had a daytime population of 14 million and a nighttime population of 10 million. It has become one of the 20 largest metropolises in the world. It is only 0.21 percent of the country’s total land area; yet, it has 13 percent of the country’s population and contributes 31 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). It has the highest population growth rates among the world’s megacities at 60 persons per hour. Its population is expected to reach 20 million this year and will exceed 23 million in 2050, according to the Global Cities Institute. In 2050, Central Luzon’s population will be more than 22 million while Calabarzon’s (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) population will exceed 35 million. Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Calabarzon’s total forecasted population will be 80 million by 2050!



**FELINO A.  
PALAFOX JR.**

With these forecasts, a comprehensive plan for Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Calabarzon is indeed long overdue. Cities in more progressive countries are planned and reviewed annually or every five years. Unfortunately, since 1975, there has not been a plan that covers these three regions, which contribute the highest share of the country’s GDP. Metro Manila has been the center for business, trade, commerce and education. This resulted in an influx of Filipino migrants coming from other regions and provinces who believe greener pastures await in the big cities; so, Metro Manila is now overcrowded up to its edges.

While I was studying at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design, I wrote a term paper titled the “Manila Megalopolis 2020 Plan.” I prepared this in hopes of providing an urban vision and call for action to create more progressive policies, plans and programs for the development

of the Manila Bay-Pacific Coast Metropolitan Region in the 21st century, which encompasses Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Calabarzon. I strongly believe that a comprehensive plan that rationalizes the directions of urban growth southward, northward and eastward of Metro Manila and identifies other growth centers and development corridors can greatly decongest the metropolis and help alleviate its urban ills. Growth centers in Central Luzon and Calabarzon include Subic and Clark, Pampanga, Bataan, Zambales, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Batangas and Quezon. These provinces and cities were identified as auxiliary urban centers because of their strategic locations, land area, industrial and economic capacity, labor force, investment potential, ports and airports, tourism potential and natural resources, among others.

The concept plan will be a development program clustering towns and cities into a more efficient network of growth centers and development corridors. This model can help link a fragmented society and a disconnected country. Development potential can also be realized in areas that have poor or minimal infrastructure. For example, Central Luzon has four of the country’s top industrial estates in Bataan, Subic, Clark and Tarlac. These ecozones stimulate economic development by promoting exports, generating investments and creating jobs. South of Metro Manila is resource-rich Calabarzon. Through the years, it has dynamically developed from being solely agriculture-based to being home to several world-class manufacturing and information technology industries. The economic benefits of transforming these areas have spilled over to adjacent towns and provinces. Other examples of development corridors that can be further developed are the Nasugbu to Quezon Corridor, the North-South Expressway and the proposed Pan-Philippine railway and highway, which can spur new development and create a more livable and more competitive National Capital Region.

Decentralization is a very practical solution. Instead of rural immigrants congesting Manila, economic centers can be created in new urban corridors. I also wrote in my term paper at Harvard that development is not worthy of the name unless it is spread evenly like butter on a piece of bread.

Development is largely concentrated in Metro Manila. So why not create counter-magnets to address rapid population growth and relieve Metro Manila of its urban pressures? There is so much left to be planned and developed in the Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog regions. If growth and progress are spread out to other parts of Luzon by means of sustainable urban planning, quality of life can greatly improve and significantly more people can benefit from developing the surrounding areas of Metro Manila.



# Green Sea turtle hatchlings released in Antique town

A total of 106 Green Sea turtle hatchlings were released in its nesting ground located at Brgy. Cadajug, Laua-an in Antique recently. The hatchlings have a carapace length of approximate in five centimeters and a width of four centimeters.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Belison personnel, coastal exten-

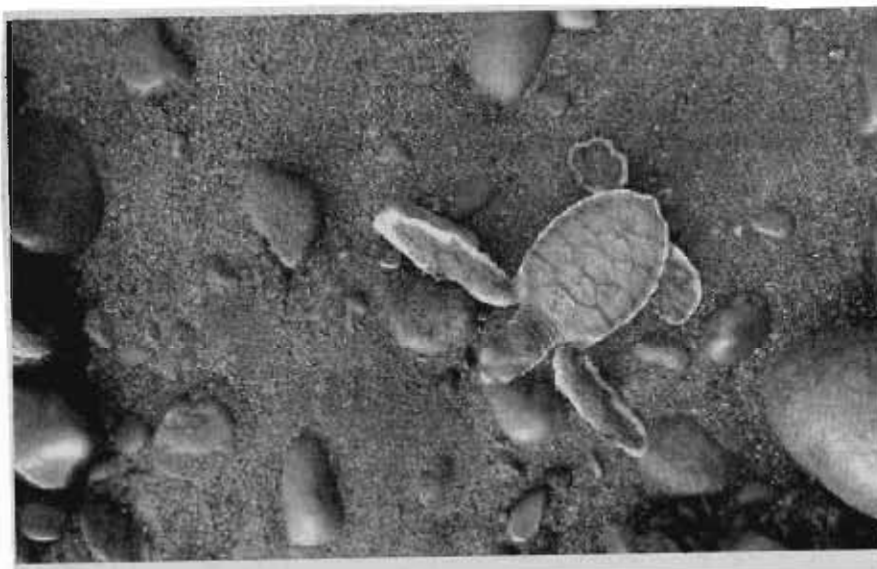
sion officer, reef guards, municipal mayor of Laua-an, fisheries extension officer, agriculturist, and LGU personnel congregated to support the campaign of sea turtles conservation.

Prior to their release, a short program presented brief information about the marine sea turtles and its importance in the marine biodiversity. It was followed by the releasing the Green Sea turtle

hatchlings into to the sea.

The Green Sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) thrives in tropical and subtropical oceans of Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian and is considered as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Antique has been implementing DENR's Turtle Conservation Program, with communities as its allies.





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# EU hikes support to Asean biodiversity conservation

**L**OS BAÑOS, Laguna—The envoy of the European Union (EU) to the Asean expressed his support to the agenda of the regional bloc in protecting and preserving biodiversity, amid challenges, and threats of environmental degradation and climate change.

Ambassador Igor Driesmans and his official delegation visited the Asean Centre for Biodiversity at the University of the Philippine Los Baños campus, where they were briefed on the sustainable programs for Asean's 49 heritage parks, as well as other programs and projects on biodiversity conservation and management of protected areas.

"For us, Southeast Asia is a very critical

region in terms of biodiversity, [as 18 percent of the world's plant species are located in this part of the world, (covering) only 3 percent of the globe's entire landmass]. The financial support that we have been giving over the years is absolutely well spent. This visit shows our continuing support," Driesmans said in a media interview.

He explained the EU program's objective is to support and build capacities among Asean member-states to manage well the bloc's heritage parks, the number of which is still growing.

"We're not doing this just because we love the birds, the bees and the beautiful species out there. We are very altruistic in protect-

ing biodiversity in the interest as a whole, because it has an impact not just in health or the economy, but also on climate change," Driesmans pointed out.

## 'Green' economy

THE Asean envoy said the EU has a global strategy on biodiversity, which seeks to halt the degradation of the global ecosystem by 2020 and restore it to transition to a "green" economy.

"We back that strategy with substantial financial resources—as the first donor worldwide, by far—in trying to protect, preserve and sustainably manage biodiversity," he assured.

According to Driesmans, the Asean region has some worrying trends, but at the same time some, carries bright spots that the EU wants to support and nurture. He pledged for

the bloc's continuing support, and expressed hope that the project inspires more ideas to protect the environment.

The ambassador said programs on smart cities would be launched next year, which has a "very important environmental component."

## 'Toward transformative change'

MEANWHILE, Asean Centre for Biodiversity Executive Director Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim expressed her appreciation to the EU as a partner in improving protected area management and in curbing biodiversity loss through the Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in Asean, or the BCAMP program.

"Now that we are faced with an unprecedented rate of species decline, we have further intensified our efforts toward transformative change... [It] entails a system-wide change in



THE European Union's Ambassador to the Asean Igor Driesmans (second from left) vows for the regional bloc's continuing financial support focused on the member-states' biodiversity protection and preservation. Executive Director Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim (second from right) of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity welcomed the visiting envoy. PNA/SAUL E. PA-A

attitude, values, goals and ways of living that would lead to the conservation, restoration, [as well as the] sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources," Lim said.

The EU delegates also walked through the Mount Makiling Botanical Gardens—one of the features of the mountain's forest reserve—considered as the 33rd Asean heritage park. *Saul Pa-a/PNA*

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Angat will no longer...

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vision—to increase the available drinking water to Metro Manila in the short term because of the projected supply deficit,” said the MWSS.

Meanwhile, the agency reiterated that the proposal by a Japanese firm to develop a weir dam at Kaliwa River is not sustainable compared to the present design of the Kaliwa Dam Project.

The technical studies have shown that the weir dam is not a sustainable solution to the water shortage in Metro Manila, it said.

“Both local and international consultants have reviewed the technical and cost sustainability of a low dam or weir over a dam at Kaliwa River. The results have been the same. In times of low flows, it cannot provide the reliability for continuous supply and in times of high flows, the risk of flooding due to overtopping is imminent,” it says.

The MWSS added that given the area’s being prone to erosion, the economic life of the weir will likely be shortened and it will thus mean more expensive water for consumers, who will eventu-

ally shoulder the investment cost of the weir.

Meanwhile, the MWSS allayed fears that the Kaliwa Dam will affect thousands of people living in communities along Kaliwa River.

Given the safety issues identified in an integrated Kaliwa plus Laiban Dam System (2013), the Kaliwa Dam project to be implemented now has been adjusted without the Laiban Dam being built, said MWSS.

“The social and environmental impact of the stand-alone Kaliwa Dam Project is minimal. Even as there are risks which are usual to any construction project, mitigation measures and safeguards have been put in place,” it added.

The MWSS claimed that consultations with the indigenous

peoples of Quezon and Rizal in December 9 and 17, 2019, ended on a positive note, when the IPs and indigenous cultural communities of Rizal and Quezon provinces, respectively, adopted a resolution of consent (Resolusyon ng Pagpayag) to the project.

Such resolution, one of the several stages in the Free Prior and Informed Consent process, indicates the IPs can conduct their own independent and collective discussions and decision-making in an environment where they did not feel intimidated, and where they had sufficient time to discuss in their culturally appropriate way, matters affecting their rights, livelihoods, knowledge, traditions, governance systems, natural resources, the MWSS explained.

**“The water demand analysis used for the planning of Kaliwa Dam showed that the water supply capacity from Angat reservoir and some other smaller sources will not be sufficient to satisfy the water demand of Metro Manila between 2020 and 2025.”—MWSS**



## 'Hot logs' nasabat, 2 arestado

**GENERAL TINIO, Nueva Ecija** - Aabot sa 320 board feet ng kahoy na nakasakay sa dalawang kolong-kolong na traysikel ang magkasunod na nasabat ng pulisya na ikinaaresto ng dalawang katao sa Brgy. Rio Chico at Brgy. Concepcion sa bayang ito, noong Martes ng umaga.

Sa ulat ni P/Capt. Gregorio Bautista, hepe ng Gen. Tinio Police, bandang alas-5:50 ng umaga noong Martes nang kanilang parahin ang isang walang plaka na Suzuki X4 125 na

kolong-kolong sa Brgy. Rio Chico. Inaresto ang drayber nito na si Alvin Bacani, 26-anyos, bina-ta ng Brgy. Concepcion matapos na walang maipakitang dokumen-to sa mga kargang 250 board feet na kahoy na nagkakahalaga ng P7,000.

Bandang alas-6:15 ng umaga ay napigilan din ng pulisya ang isa pang Honda 155 motor-cycle na kolong-kolong (6228-ZI) sa Brgy. Con-cepcion. Kanila ring ina-resto ang drayber nito na si Lito Evangelista, 55, may-asawa, isang

magsasaka, ng Sitio Pantay, Brgy. Rio Chico, Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija matapos na walang maipakitang kaukulang papeles sa sakay nitong 70-board feet na kahoy na nasa P2,000 ang halaga.

Ayon kay Capt. Bau-tista, ang pagkakahuli sa daiawa ay resulta ng pinaigting na kampanya ng pamahalaan laban sa illegal loggers na patuloy na kumakaalbo sa kagubatan na isa sa sanhi ng nararanasang climate change sa bu-ong mundo. *(Christian Ryan Sta. Ana)*



## 10 kaingero kinorner, 491 chainsaw kumpiskado

NASA 491 chainsaw na walang kaukulang permit ang nakumpiska sa lalawigan ng Cagayan, ayon sa Cagayan Police Provincial Office (CPPO).

Ayon kay CPPO director P/Col. Ariel Quilang, ito ay resulta ng isang buwang operasyon ng mga awtoridad sa pinalakas na kampanya ng pulisya kontra illegal logging.

Sinabi ni Quilang, bukod sa mga boluntaryong isinuko, sampung katao ang naares-



to sa mga operasyon ng CPPO at apat dito ang dinidinig na ang kaso sa korte.

Sa buong 2019, sinabi ni Quilang na 31 operasyon ang naisagawa kung saan 44 katao ang naaresto at sinampahan ng kaso kung saan 25 ang kasalukuyang dini-

dinig sa korte.

Base sa datos ng CPPO, Nasa 11,433 board feet na ilegal na pinutol na punong kahoy naman ang nasa-bat habang 755 board feet ang narekober na inabandona ng mayari. (Allan Bergonia)





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**FOREST FIRE** — Around two hectares of forested land in Mount Sto. Tomas in Tuba, Benguet are covered in ash after fire broke out Tuesday, January 7. Firefighters suspect the bushfire was caused by a lighted cigarette that was irresponsibly thrown along the path at mountain side. No damage to property or casualty was reported. (JJ Landingin)



## **SINGLE-USE PLASTICS BAWAL SA PARAÑAQUE CITY**

**EPEKTIBO** sa Hunyo, bawal na ang single-use plastics sa Parañaque City, batay sa ordinansang No. 18-40 series of 2019.

Ayon sa City Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO), ang ban sa single-use plastics ay pagbabawalan ang lahat ng mga establisimiyento na gumamit ng styrofoam, plastic bags, straws, spoons and forks, cups at stirrers.

Ayon pa rin sa ordinansa na tanging ang manufacturers lamang ang papayagan na gumamit ng

plastic para sa packaging.

Ang mga supermarket at public market vendors naman ay kailangang gumamit ng biodegradable plastic.

Ang mga lalabag ay pagmumultahin ng P5,000 sa kada paglabag at sa ikatlong paglabag, bukod sa multang P5,000 ay kakanselahin ang kanilang business permit at ipasasara ang establisimiyento.

Layon ng ban sa single-use plastic na mabawasan ang problema ng bansa sa plastic waste.

**MARIVIC FERNANDEZ**



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## DENR inangklahan ni Rivera

UMAYUDA si Ed Rivera ng 25 points at walong rebounds upang akbayan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa panalo kontra PhilHealth, 110-93 at sikwatin ang pangalawang semifinals berth ng 8th UNTV Cup 2019-2020 second round eliminations sa Paco Arena sa Manila.

Bumakas ng 18 markers at 9 assists si Melvin Bangal para sa DENR Warriors na inilista ang 7-1 karta at samahan sa tuktok ng team standings ang defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Nanatiling may tsansa ang Department of Agriculture sa kanilang quarters bid nang pagulungin ang Malacañang Palace-PSC, 78-68 sa likod ng matikas na laro ni UST hotshot Emerson Oreta na may game high 26 puntos.

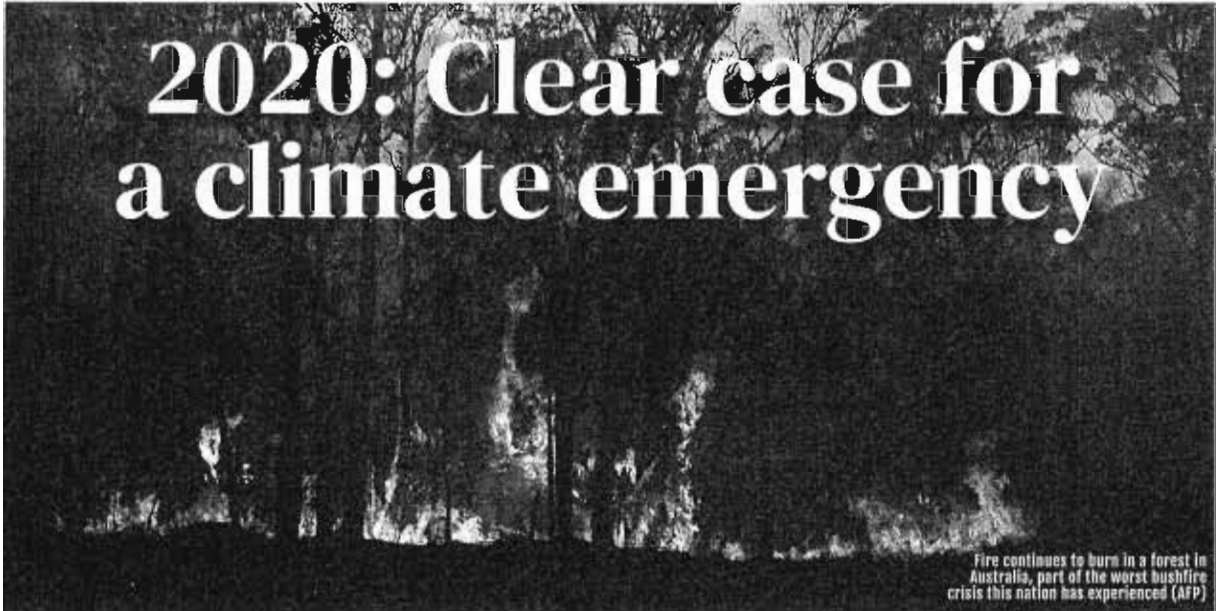
Ang 3rd-6th placer ang maglalaban-laban para sa quarters habang ang dalawa o 7th-8th ang maliligwak sa ligang inorganisa ni UNTV President at CEO Dr. Daniel Razon. (ARABELA PRINCESS DAWA)



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# 2020: Clear case for a climate emergency



Fire continues to burn in a forest in Australia, part of the worst bushfire crisis this nation has experienced (AFP)

**S**choolchildren skipping class to strike, protests bringing city centers to a standstill, people armed with dire warnings from scientists – citizens around the world dragged climate emergency into the mainstream in 2019.

Spurred on by Greta Thunberg – virtually unknown outside of her homeland a year ago, but now a global star nominated for a Nobel prize – millions of young people took part in demonstrations demanding climate action.

And, like harbingers of the apocalypse, the Extinction Rebellion movement embarked on a campaign of peaceful civil disobedience that spread worldwide, armed with little more than superglue and the nihilistic motto: "When hope dies, action begins."

Although scientists have warned for decades about the risk to humanity and Earth posed by unfettered burning of fossil fuels, in 2019 – set to be the second hottest year in history – their message seems to have finally hit home.

The 2015 Paris agreement saw nations commit to limiting global warming to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels as a way of curbing the worst impacts of global warming. A safer cap of 1.5C was included as a goal for nations to work towards.

With Earth having already warmed by 1C, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) dropped a bombshell late last year. Its landmark report in October 2018 laid the groundwork for the string of climate shockwaves that rumbled throughout 2019: The world is way

off course for 1.5C, and the difference between 1.5C and 2C could be catastrophic.

"The message from scientists was that each half-degree counts," said Amy Dahan, a science historian specializing in climate at France's National Center for Scientific Research.

It was a message heard around the world.

For Corinne Le Quere, president of France's High Commission for Climate Change and member of Britain's Committee on Climate Change, 2019 was "something new."

"I've worked on climate change for 30 years and for 29 of those, as scientists, we've worked unnoticed," she said.

The IPCC report concluded that global CO2 emissions must drop 45 percent by 2030 – and reach "net zero" by 2050 – to cap temperature rise at 1.5C.

"It's given us a clear timeline: we have 12 years to act," said Caroline Merner, 24, a Canadian member of the Youth4Climate movement.

The UN last November said,

carbon emissions must decline 7.6 percent annually by 2030 to stand any chance of hitting 1.5C. Scientists meanwhile said emissions this year will instead rise 0.6 percent.

Despite growing mobilization



Typhoons have become very devastating such as Typhoon Ursula that hit Leyte last Christmas Day (AFP)



A tourist takes a photo of the flood-hit Venice in Italy (AFP)

and awareness, COP25 – the climate summit in Madrid – barely squeezed out compromises from countries over a global warming battle plan that fell well short of what science says is needed to tackle the climate crisis.

### Annus horribilis

While society and particularly younger generations appear to have woken up to the threat of climate catastrophe, industry shows little signs of sharing their urgency.

Greenhouse gas emissions are once again set to rise in 2019 after hitting a record in 2018, as extreme



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**'Faced with an unbreachable body of evidence and mounting pressure from the streets, governments in 2019 started, slowly, to mobilize. A total of 66 nations now have plans to be carbon-neutral by 2050.'**

weather events – made more likely as the planet warms – struck seemingly everywhere this year.

Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, typhoon Hagibis in Japan, a deadly, record-breaking heatwave across much of Europe, wildfires in California and eastern Australia, floods in Venice... the list goes on.

The threat posed by climate change became so stark in 2019 that Indonesia decided to move its capital to somewhere that wasn't sinking.

"We're seeing climate change with our own eyes," Le Quere said. "Reality is forcing us to act."

Faced with an unbreachable body of evidence and mounting pressure from the streets, governments in 2019 started, slowly, to mobilize. A total of 66 nations now have plans to be carbon-neutral by 2050. The cities of London and Paris declared official ecological and climate emergencies.

Yet there are fears meager progress could be undermined as developing economies appear no closer to ditching fossil fuels and the US – the largest historic emitter – looks poised to complete its Paris pullout.

**Climate makes us equal**

Environmental activism, of course, is nothing new. As Alfredo Jornet, professor at the University of Oslo, pointed out, indigenous peoples "have been very active for a long time" in protesting against climate change and deforestation, often with little fanfare.

With the deadline for countries' Paris commitments looming, as well as a series of high-profile environment summits in 2020, this year is unlikely to be a one-off in terms of climate action.

"The question is how to mobilize this unrest in a way that can lead us to better, more peaceful, democratic, and sustainable societies," said Jornet. "In a sense, climate change makes us all more equal. It makes us more capable of acting together." (AFP)





## Environmental group to Congress: Declare climate emergency

CLARK FREEPORT – An environmental group urged Congress on Tuesday to declare a “climate emergency” and convene frontline communities, local governments, and civil society to thresh out a climate resilience package of programs.

Leon Dulce, national coordinator of the Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment (KPNE), said “the unprecedented Australian bushfires are the strongest warning yet that the impacts of climate change we thought we will be facing 20 or 50 years later is already a catastrophic reality today.”

He said the Philippines, being an archipelagic country, is “very much exposed to these climate impacts.”

KPNE is a national environmental network founded in 1997 for campaign coordination on people’s environmental issues.

The group also urged the Philippine government to impose “a moratorium on coal-fired power plants and a just transition toward clean and renewable energy to wean our country’s development pathway from climate change-inducing greenhouse gas emissions.”

“A climate emergency declaration must also create mechanisms to hold accountable the world’s current and historic top polluters. The landmark report of the Commission on Human Rights’ inquiry into the human rights accountability of the world’s top carbon major companies can be a starting point in demanding climate justice from these climate criminals,” the group said.

KPNE stressed that “the climate emergency can no longer be put into the political back burner by world leaders, including President Duterte. Our world, as we have seen in Australia, will literally burn down if we don’t act now.”

The group noted that “over six million hectares of bushland, forests and parks have been razed. Half a billion mammals, birds, and reptiles have perished. Thousands of people have been forced to evacuate. As Australia enters its drier months, wildfires are expected to intensify further.”

“We are in solidarity with the people of Australia as they continue to confront these climate change-driven conflagrations. We stand especially with the Filipino migrant communities that are affected by the fires and haze,” Dulce said.

He said that “while Australia’s bushfires are a regular seasonal phenomenon, the Garnaut Climate Change Review in 2008 already predicted that the shift in fire weather patterns and intensity would be directly observable this year. Public authorities had more than a decade’s worth of head start to address these risks but willfully ignored the warnings.”

“The Philippines must quickly learn lessons from the Australian fires, and the Amazon fires, Greenland ice melts, and our very own Super Typhoon Haiyan before that. As a consistent ranker in the world’s most climate vulnerable countries, we are very much prone to both slow-onset and sudden climate shocks,” Dulce also said.

He also noted that “the latest IPCC report projecting scenarios within the targeted 1.5 °C global warming ‘safe’ limit shows that very high risks of coral reef degradation and polar icecap melting, and high risks of coastal flooding and fisheries depletion can be expected in the next 11 years.”

– Ding Cervantes



BW/FILE PHOTO

NICKEL and chrome display at a mining conference in Manila.

## Philippine nickel output seen growing at about 8% a year

NICKEL production is expected to increase by over 8% a year in the next few years despite policy uncertainty that could limit project development, Fitch Solutions Macro Research said in a report.

"We expect Philippine production to continue rising over the coming years although high levels of policy uncertainty could constrain project development, posing downside risks to our forecasts. We forecast nickel production to average 8.6% year-on-year growth over 2020-2028," Fitch Solutions said in its industry trend analysis published Jan. 8.

It said that the Philippines will regain its spot as the mineral's top producer due to Indonesia's nickel ore export ban, which took effect this year. Indonesia hopes to accelerate the establishment of domestic smelters to capture more value than the current practice of exporting ore.

The United States Geological Survey said in a report in February that Indonesia produced 560,000 tons of nickel in 2018, taking the top spot, followed by the Philippines with 340,000 tons.

Fitch Solutions said that most of the Philippine supply will come from SR Metals, Inc., Global Ferrometals Holdings, Inc., Nickel Asia Corp., and CTP Construction and Mining Corp. Of these, Nickel Asia will remain the top producer on the back of its Taganito and Cagdianao mine operations.

The Taganito mine site covers the barangays of Hayanggabon, Ur-

biztondo, Taganito, and Cagdianao in Claver, Surigao del Norte. The total land area covered in its Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) is 4,862.71 hectares.

The Cagdianao mine site is located in barangay Valencia, Cagdianao, in the Dinagat Islands. The total land area of its MPSA is 697 hectares, one third of which is mineable.

Fitch Solutions noted that from 2016 to 2018, nickel production declined by an average of 12% due to the ban on open-pit mining.

The current Environment Secretary, Roy A. Cimatu, reversed some of his predecessor's restrictions, but some mine suspensions are still in force until miners address concerns raised about their environmental compliance.

Globally, Fitch Solutions is projecting nickel ore production to fall 15.7% due to Indonesia's nickel export ban.

This is "despite rising production growth in competitor the Philippines as well as steady output in other major producers Australia, Canada and Russia."

"In the longer term, we forecast global nickel production to grow by an annual average rate of 1.6% year-on-year over 2020-2028, a significant slowdown from the 5.8% year-on-year average achieved over 2011-2019, which was boosted by higher nickel prices at the time and strong Indonesian output before another export ban in 2014," Fitch Solutions noted. — Vincent Mariel P. Galang



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman Quezon City 1116  
Telephone Nos.: (832) 827-1517, 928-3725; Fax No.: (832) 920-2258  
Website: <http://www.emb.gov.ph>

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) of the proposed **DANAO MINING PROJECT** of the **CITADEL MINING CORPORATION** located in **BARANGAYS CABUNGAHAN, MANLAYAG, STA. ROSA AND GUINACOT, DANAO CITY, CEBU.**

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed **DANAO MINING PROJECT** to attend a Public Hearing on **17 JANUARY 2020 (FRIDAY)** at **9:00 AM**. (registration starts at **8:30 AM**) to be held in the **DANAO COCO PALMS RESORT, KM 31, NORTH NATIONAL HIGHWAY, BARANGAY SABANG, DANAO CITY, CEBU.**

The Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with Citadel Mining Corporation's application for its Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC). The EIS of the aforementioned project is being reviewed by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

Proposer	Citadel Mining Corporation
Project Name	Danao Mining Project
Project Location	Barangays Cabungahan, Manlayag, Sta. Rosa and Guinacot, Danao City, Cebu
Project Area	179.13 hectares out of the total 336.3782 hectares covered by the MPSA
Proposed Extraction Rate	330,000 MTPY

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/participation and may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper to the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD)** of this Office through mail or through email at [eiamd.emb.ce@gmail.com](mailto:eiamd.emb.ce@gmail.com), three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: [www.eia.emb.gov.ph](http://www.eia.emb.gov.ph) (kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/ Consultation link found in our website) while copies will be available in this Office and in the following offices:

- 1) **EMB Region VII**  
Address: DENR Compound, Greenplains Subd., Banilad, Mandaue City  
(032) 260 9777
- 2) **City Planning and Development Officer**  
Danao City Hall, F. Ralota Street, Poblacion, 6004, Danao City, Cebu  
(+63 32) 411 0100 loc 1511, 1512, 2301

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone number (02) 920- 2240 to 41 and look for the project case handlers Engr. Carlo Vic Arida, EnP and Engr. George Silvederio.

*Protect the environment... Protect life...*