

DATE : 01-13-20

DAY : Tuesday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



# 'MM ashfall may last 3 days'

By MARC JAYSON CAYABYAB

The ashfall from the Taal Volcano eruption being experienced in southern Metro Manila may last three days even after the wind shifts its direction to the provinces of Laguna, Rizal and Quezon.

In a phone patch during the meeting yesterday of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority with local disaster risk reduction clusters, weather specialist Chris Perez of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said the ashfall may last up to three days depending on the wind condition.

The volcanic ash from Taal reached Metro Manila due to the northward wind direction that carried the toxic fumes to the metropolis and nearby provinces, Perez told the Metro Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MMDRRMC).

"For the next 24 hours to three days, it's possible that the wind will shift, carrying the ash plume to Quezon, Laguna and Rizal," he said.

But even if the wind changes direction this week, it does not necessarily spare Metro Manila from ashfall, Perez said.

"What has been deposited over the atmosphere will not be immediately cleared," he said.

## Class, work suspension

The weather bureau also recommended to the council that suspension of classes and work be retained at least in Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Parañaque and Taguig.

Perez said these cities are heavily affected by the tail-end of the ash plume.

"I think it's better to maintain the suspension of classes. Let's continue to monitor updates," Perez told the MMDRRMC.

Asked whether the current behavior of Taal Volcano could lead to a deadly explosion, an official of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said it is "too early" to predict the volcano's activity.

Taal's eruption on May 15, 1754 and in 1911 left over 1,300 casualties. Both explosions originated at the crater. The 1754 explosion caused ashfall that lasted from May to November that year, Phi-

volcs chief science research specialist Mylene Villegas said.

"We don't know what it's going to do. That is what's mysterious about volcanoes," Villegas said.

According to Phivolcs, Taal Volcano's last activity was monitored on Oct. 3, 1977, which was a phreatic or steam-driven explosion on Mt. Tabaro.

The last deadliest activity happened from Sept. 28 to 30 in 1965, but the phreatomagmatic or magma and water-driven explosion occurred on Mt. Tabaro, which left 200 casualties.

## Air quality

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) advised the public to stay indoors amid the poor air quality in areas affected by Taal Volcano's explosion, including Metro Manila.

"The ash emitted by the volcano will have a negative effect in the quality of the air we breathe. We advise the public to stay indoors as much as possible or wear masks if there is really a need to go outside," Vizmina Osorio of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) said.

She said the ash or sulfur would blend with particulate matters in the air, such as smoke, dust and vapors.

"Once inhaled, these particles can affect the heart and lungs, which may cause serious health problems," Osorio said.

Data provided by the EMB showed that CAA Road in Las Piñas, Barangay Addition Hills in Mandaluyong and TUP Campus in Taguig registered poor air quality yesterday.

"The air quality in these areas is unhealthy, especially for those with respiratory illnesses," the DENR official said.

The air quality in Makati, Parañaque and Oranbo in Pasig was classified as "moderate or fair."

- With Rhodina Villanueva



# ABO MULA SA TAAL VOLCANO DELIKADO—PHIVOLCS, DENR

**DELIKADO** sa kalusugan ang abo na ibinubuga ng Bulkang Taal sa sandaling malanghap ito dahil maaaring makaapekto ito sa ating paghinga.

Ito ang sinabi nina Usec. Renato Solidum chief ng Phivolcs-DOST at DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda, bunsod ng matinding pagbuga ng abo ng Bulkang Taal.

Sa isang press conference kahapon, sinabi ni Solidum na hindi lang sa crater nakikita

ang pagputok ng bulkan kundi maging sa gilid nito.

Sinabi pa ni Solidum na matindi ang pagbuga ng abo kahapon sa south west sa mga bayan ng Cuenca, Lemery at Taal Batangas.

Sinabi naman ni DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda na ang negative infact ng air quality ng abo ng Bulkang Taal ay nakarating na sa Metro Manila at naitala ito dakong alas-11:00 ng umaga kahapon.

Ayon pa kay Antiporda

dahil umulan medyo, gumanda ang air quality dahil bumagsak sa lupa ang mga maliit na butil mula sa pagputok ng bulkan subalit mapanganib pa rin ito lalo na sa baga.

Kinakailangan umanong gumamit ng face mask bilang proteksyon.

Idnagdag pa ni Antiporda na dapat din maprotektahan ang endanger species lalo na ang mga ibon na galing sa Taal na nagsipagliparan matapos sumabog ang bulkan.

"Kung may makikitang mga ibon 'wag sasaktan kapag nahuli ang mga ito. Kung maaari ay i-turnover sa pinakamalapit na DENR," ani Antiporda.

hindi makapasok ang volcanic ash sa loob ng tahanan.

"For those in evacuation centers, follow orders and await for further instructions. Huwag na huwag po kayong aalis hanggang walaing sinasabi ang mga local na opiyal. Bantayan din natin ang mga bata at baka lumabas center at panoorin ang mga nangyari sa labang center," payo pa ng regional director.

Umapela rin naman si Janairo sa mga retailer at traders sa rehiyon na huwag namang samantalahin ang pag-sabog ng bulkan para kumita.

Babala pa niya, "We will be monitoring prices and take stern action against those who will be taking advantage of the situation by unreasonably raising the prices of face asks."

Tiniyak din ni Janairo na mamamahagi ang DOH ng mga libreng N95 facemask, maging ng eye drops at protection kits sa mga residente sa high risk areas sa rehiyon.

mang epekto sa kalusugan mula sa volcanic eruption kung susundin lang ang mga babala ng mga awtoridad at mga eksperto hinggil dito.

Pinayuhan din naman ng kallhim ang publiko na manatili na lamang sa kani-kanilang mga tahanan at bawasan ang kanilang activities.

Kung 'di naman umano maiwasang lumabas, mag-suot ng N95 mask at ng protective clothing, gaya ng goggles.



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1/ \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Hangin sa Metro Manila kontaminado ng ashfall

Nanawagan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa publiko na manatiling magsuot ng face mask para hindi makalanghap ng alikabok na galing sa abo ng pumutok na Bulkang Taal.

Inilagay ng Phivolcs sa Alert Level 4 ang Bulkang Taal noong Linggo at umabot ang ashfall nito sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, hindi maganda ang air quality index sa ilang lugar sa Metro Manila katulad sa Las Piñas, Mandaluyong at Taguig City lalo na sa mga may sakit at may problema sa respiratory system kung kaya't kinakailangang gumagawa ng kaukulang pag-iingat.

Aniya, sa kasalukuyan ang particulate matter (PM) sa Metro Manila na nalalanghap ay PM10 o iyong tinatawag na visual pm nakikita pa natin pero ang kinatatakutan umano nila ay kapag umabot ito sa PM 2.5 dahil puwedeng dumiretso sa baga kapag nakalanghap ng alikabok.

"Better air quality kanina [kahapon] kasi umulan. But we are expecting worst situation. Dust particles are the main source of PM 10 visible nakikita few minutes, malalaman lang natin 'pag sinumpong ang may hika," ani Antiporda. (Riz Dominguez)



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



8  
PAGE

OFFER  
TOWEE

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

PAGE 17

DATE

TITLE

## Rody on Manila Bay reclamation: Not in my time

President Duterte said yesterday he is not inclined to approve proposed Manila Bay reclamation projects as he emphasized the need to protect the environment and the public.

"If it's an investment to infuse more money into the Philippine economy, it's OK. But reclaiming 10,000 hectares of the Manila Bay is mind-boggling. There might be some offices and residences," Duterte said in an interview over radio station *dzMM*.

"I am not ready to grant it. Not in my time, as long as there is no guarantee that the environment will be protected and the health of the people safeguarded," he

added.

Duterte said an audit should be conducted to determine whether the reclamation area could absorb waste from the residences and offices that would occupy it.

He noted that buildings should be connected to a water treatment facility.

The proposed Manila Bay reclamation involves 25 projects covering 10,000 hectares from Navotas City to Cavite.

Four projects have been given notices to proceed by the Philippine Reclamation Authority, including the Navotas coastal bay and the Horizon Manila 418-hectare reclamation.

— Alexis Romero



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

**INQUIRY**

A6

OFFER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BAHIER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

IIIIF

PAGE 17

DATE

**'MIND-BOGGLING'**

## **DU30 NOT KEEN ON RECLAMATION PROJECTS**

**By Julie M. Aurelio**  
@JMAurelioINQ

President Duterte is unlikely to give the green light to the proposed Manila Bay reclamation projects unless environment and public health safeguards are put in place.

The President said that the reclamation of 10,000 hectares was "mind-boggling" and "stupefying."

"That big, it's stupefying. I don't think I'm ready for that. I am not ready, even to say that I will grant it. Not in my time," he said in an interview aired over dzMM on Monday.

The President made the remarks more than a month after the Philippine Reclamation Authority said four reclamation projects have been given notices to proceed.

These are the Navotas City Coastal Bay Reclamation Project, Pasay 360-Hectare Reclamation Project, Pasay 265-Hectare Reclamation Project and Horizon Manila 418-Reclamation Project.

Nearly 10,000 hectares of the Manila Bay from Navotas City to Cavite are set to be reclaimed under 25 pending projects. INQ



## Duterte thumbs down Manila Bay reclamation projects

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

"Not in my time."

President Duterte said he was unlikely to approve any proposed reclamation project in Manila Bay as he expressed concern over its effect on the environment.

Duterte made the statement after the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) said last month that **▶7**

## Duterte thumbs down... 1◀

at least four reclamation projects in Manila Bay were already given the green light.

PRA general manager Joselito Gonzales told DZMM last month that the approved projects were the Navotas City Coastal Bay Reclamation Project, Pasay 360-Hectare Reclamation Project, Pasay 265-Hectare Reclamation Project, and the Horizon Manila 418-Reclamation Project.

In an interview with ABS-CBN, Duterte said it would have been fine if the projects were just investments to infuse money into the economy but added that reclaiming 10,000 hectares of the Manila Bay was "mind-boggling."

"That entire, how many? Ten thousand hectares? It would be, surely, for habitation. There might be some offices or some residences there," he said in the interview aired over DZMM Monday.

"But you have to make an audit now of whether or not the environment of the entire area there can absorb the waste and where would it go after being treated. Because now, you must have water treatment. If you have a new building, make sure you are connected to [a] water treatment facility," he added.

Duterte said he was not ready to approve any reclamation project if there was no concrete plan showing how the environment would be protected.

"That big [of an area] is stupefying. Mukhang (I think), I am not ready for that. I am not ready even to say I will grant it. Not in my time," he said.

"As long as there is no guarantee that the environment will be protected and the health of the people also safeguarded," he added.

Environmental group Climate Reality Project earlier warned the government that dumping soil into the Manila Bay would displace thousands of residents, cause flooding, and harm its biodiversity.

However, Gonzales told DZMM last month that dumping soil into the Manila Bay would not cause it to overflow but said the water would go to the West Philippine Sea because of displacement theory.

In February last year, President Duterte ordered the creation of the Manila Bay Task Force to ensure the expedited and complete rehabilitation, restoration, and conservation of the coastal and marine ecosystem of the Manila Bay.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which was named head of the task force, was ordered to strictly enforce the Philippine Clean Water Act on the conduct of containment, removal, and clean operations, and the exercise of supervision and control on all aspects of water quality management.

The agency was likewise tasked to monitor compliance with critical environmental laws, rules and regulations, and issue notices of closure, cease and desist orders, and other appropriate sanctions to violators, including the filing of cases against erring government officials. (Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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As  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

DATE

## Duterte rejects Manila Bay reclamation projects

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte said he was unlikely to approve any proposed reclamation project in Manila Bay, saying the scope of the proposals was "almost mind-boggling" and "stupefying."

Duterte made the statement after the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) last month said at least four reclamation projects had been given the green light.

"That entire, how many? 10,000 hectares? It would be, surely, for habitation.

There might be some offices or some residences there," the President said in a television interview on Monday.

"But you have to make an audit now of whether or not the environment of the entire area there can absorb the waste and where would it go after being treated. Because now, you must have water treatment. If you have a new building, make sure you are connected to [a] water treatment facility," he added.

Duterte said he was not ready to approve any reclamation project if there was no concrete plan showing how the environment would be protected.

"That big [of an area] is stupefying. *Mukhang* (I think), I am not ready for that. I am not ready even to say I will grant it. Not in my time," the President said.

"As long as there is no guarantee that the environment will be protected and the health of the people also safeguarded," he added.

PRA General Manager Joselito Gonzales earlier said the approved projects were the Navotas City Coastal Bay Reclamation Project, Pasay 360-Hectare Reclamation Project, Pasay 265-Hectare Reclamation Project and the Horizon Manila 418-Reclamation Project.

In February last year, Duterte gave the power to approve reclamation projects back to the PRA.

**CATHERINE S. VALENTE**





TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1/ \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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In an interview with ABS-CBN, Duterte said it would have been fine if the projects were just investments to infuse money into the economy but added that reclaiming 10,000 hectares of the Manila

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"That entire, how many? Ten thousand hectares? It would be, surely, for habitation. There might be some offices or some residences there," he said in the interview aired over DZMM Monday.

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**(Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)**



## Manila Bay reclamation projects 'not in my time' – Duterte

Ni ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

**"Not in my time."**

Ito ang idiniin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte kaugnay sa anumang panukalang reclamation project sa Manila Bay kasabay ng pagpahayag ng pag-aalala sa magiging epekto nito sa kapaligiran.

Naglabas ng pahayag si Duterte matapos sabihin ng Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) nitong nakaraang buwan na apat na reclamation projects sa Manila Bay ang binigyan na ng pahintulot.

Sinabi ni PRA general manager Joselito Gonzales sa DZMM nitong nakaraang buwan na ang mga proyekto ay ang Navotas City Coastal Bay Reclamation Project, Pasay 360-Hectare Reclamation Project, Pasay 265-Hectare Reclamation Project, at ang Horizon Manila 418-Reclamation Project.

Sa isang panayam, sinabi ni Duterte na ayos lang sa kanya kung ang projects ay investments para magpasok ng pera sa ekonomiya ngunit idinagdag na ang pag-reclaim sa 10,000 ektarya ng Manila Bay ay "mind-boggling."

"That entire, how many? Ten thousand hectares? It would be, surely, for habitation. There might be some offices or some residences there,"

aniya sa panayam ng DZMM nitong Lunes.

Sinabi ni Duterte na hindi siya handa na aprubahan ang anumang reclamation project kung walang kongkretong plano na magpapakita kung paano poprotektahan ang kapaligiran.

"That big [of an area] is stupefying. Mukhang, I am not ready for that. I am not ready even to say I will grant it. Not in my time," aniya.

"As long as there is no guarantee that the environment will be protected and the health of the people also safeguarded," dagdag niya.



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1/ \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Manila Bay reclamation project tinabla ni Digong

Hindi palulusutin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang mga ikinakasang reclamation project sa Manila Bay mula Navotas City hanggang Cavite.

Ito ang inihayag ng Pangulo sa isang panayam sa kanya sa radyo hinggil sa nakalinyang 25 reclamation project sa kahabaan ng Manila Bay na aabot sa tinatang 10,000 hektarya.

Sinabi ng Pangulo na isang malaking kalokohan ang mga planong reclamation project at hindi niya ito aaprubahan.

Mahalaga aniyang maprotektahan ang

kapakanan at kaligtasan ng mamamayan lalo na sa galit ng kalikasan.

"That is stupefying. I am not ready for that. I am not even ready to say that I will grant it. Not in my time. As long as there is no guarantee that the environment will be protected and the health of the people should also be safeguarded," anang Pangulo.

Kinuwestiyon ni Pangulong Duterte kung paano ang gagawin sa malawak na karagatan at kung ano ang gagawin sa tubig sakaling matabunan ito.

Sabi ng Pangulo, hin-

di niya lubos maisip ang gagawing reclamation project sa Manila Bay kaya dapat masusing tingnan ito at hindi niya papayagang maipatupad ito sa ilalim ng kanyang administrasyon. **(Aileen Taliping)**



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COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

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B-3  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

IIIIC

PAGE 12

DATE

# Bacoor City pushes project to reclaim 420 hectares

By **BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT**

**T**he City Government of Bacoor said its proposed 420-hectare reclamation projects have earned overwhelming support from directly-impacted stakeholders during the public hearing held by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In a statement, Bacoor City Mayor Lani M. Revilla said that Bacoor stakeholders were present during the January 9, 2020. Said public hearing is part of the Environmental Impact Assessment System as mandated by law under Presidential Decree 1586 and DENR Administrative Order No. 2003-30.

The City Government of Bacoor is the proponent of twin reclamation projects, namely Bacoor Reclamation and Development Project (BRDP), consisting of a total of 320-hectare islands, and the Diamond Reclamation and Development Project

(DRDP) consisting of one 100-hectare island via Public-Private Partnership under the PPP Code of Bacoor.

Revilla explained that the City hopes to integrate in these two projects a most effective approach to the long-term clean-up of Manila Bay as mandated by a SC continuing mandamus, being the only projects along the Manila Bay that carry with it a program for relocation and resettlement of Informal Settler Families (ISFs) living along the ten coastal barangays.

"These proposed projects will also address flooding in the city as she made sure they are integrated with the various long-term flood mitigating projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)," said Revilla in a statement. The Flood Risk Management Project of the DPWH will improve river channels and create diversion channels from Imus to Bacoor City which will serve as the flood discharge system of the rainwater catchment basin of Bacoor in Buhay na Tubig.

The reclamation projects which are designed with deep channels and waterways for the efficient flow of water to the sea, complement the anti-flood measures being implemented by the national government. These are necessary because Bacoor is currently the catch-basin of the Province of Cavite and naturally prone to flooding. These channels will serve as outlets of the government flood-control infrastructures aided with the most advanced technology with least inconvenience to the public.

Elevated and equipped with wave deflectors at the banks, the reclamation would likewise serve as an integral part of the city's coastal defense that would shield it and adjacent areas from the threat of storm surge. The reclamation islands inside Cavite road also complement the Bacoor Diversion Road project of the DPWH as this structure and the islands will also serve to block the influx of high tide waters into the often-inundated areas along the coastal barangays of Talaba 2, Maliksi 1 and 3 and Digman.



**REKTA**  
**FRED L. MAGNO**  
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## Manila Bay busisiing mabuti

**REBYU** tayo para sa kapakanan ng mga klasmeys natin na hindi nakapangarera at nakapanood sa pakarera nung Biyernes sa Metrourf.

Sa unang takbuan nung Biyernes ay hindi na pinaporma pa ng hineteng si Alan Pare lulan ng kabayong si Kid Kenshin ang kanilang mga nakalaban na masasabing pinaglaruan lamang nila ang nasalihang grupo.

Nakuha naman sa tiyaga ni Christian Pilapil na mailagpas mga ilang metro bago sumapit sa meta ang sakay niyang si Yes Music sa dalawang kalaban niyang nasa harapan na sina Magnitude Eight at Dangerous Willie.

Dahil sa maagang nakasunod ang kabayong si Words Of Wisdom na dala ni Ryan "Hapon" Tabor sa mga maagang nagkabakbakan sa unahan na sina Precious Jewel, Born Unto Battle at Prince Jolo ay napabor sa kanila na masungkit ang pangatlong karera.

Magaang na nagwagi sa grupong nalabanan ang kabayong si Cinco Del Drinco ni Mark Alvarez at sa

klase ng itinakbo ay tiyak na masundan pa.

Ayon naman sa mga beteranong klasmeys kaya nakagawa ng upset win si Gentleman Jim ay dahil hindi ginawa ng hinete ni Manila Bay na patakbuhan siya sa kanyang natural na ayre sa arangkadah na hindi katulad nung sa kanyang mga nagdaang laban? Dugtong pa ng mga nakapanood na tila nagamit pa ang kabayong si Manila Bay upang maantala ang numeremate ng malakas sa may tabing balya na si Shadow Of The Sun na dala ng isang apprentice rider, kung kaya't nakaalpas sa gawing labas si Gentleman Jim. Hindi rin naniniwala ang mga nakapanood na may ugaling nagloloko si Manila Bay pagdating sa takbuan at higit sa lahat na ikinainis ng mga karerista ay basta na lamang tinanggap ng MMTCI Board Of Stewards ang paliwanag ni hinete na si kabayo pa ang nagkaroon ng sala sa nangyare este nangyari. Kaya napa-WOW na lamang ang mga pobreng karerista at malamang na maging iyong mga napaboran ay nagpalakpakan pa sa kalokohang nangyare este nangyari?

Ang tanging kahilingan na lamang ng mga karerista ay ang busisiing mabuti mula sa nagawang pananakay, ugaling pagtakbo ni Manila Bay at maging sa mga rekords.

Sa penultimate race ay nakabanderang tapos si Gintong Lawin ni Claro Pare Jr., binigo nila ang coupled runners na sina No Regret at Bossa Nova.

Animo'y outstanding favorite naman ang nanalo sa pinakahuling karera na si Gutsy Girl ni Mark Gonzales, dahil nawala sa eksena ang nagbalikatan sa bentahan at paratingan na sina Union Run at Batang Baclaran. Ang tanging nasabi na lamang ng mga karerista sa OTB ay basa-basa rin sa mga pangalan ng tao na nasa programa dahil "Kahit hindi pasko ay nagbibigayan." Aguy-aguy-aguy.



# Phl to shoulder cost of migration of IPs affected by Kaliwa Dam project

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

The Philippine government has committed to shoulder the cost of migration of the indigenous people affected by the implementation of the China-funded Kaliwa Dam project, the Chinese Embassy in Manila said yesterday.

The embassy defended the project, saying the terms and conditions of the agreement are in accordance with both international practice and Philippine laws.

"The terms and conditions of the agreement are general and standardized requirements in accordance with both international practice and Philippine laws, as suggested by the results of reviews conducted by the Department of Finance, Department of Justice and other relevant government sectors of the Philippines before the agreement was signed," the embassy said in a statement.

China and the Philippines agreed that the project would be funded by the preferential loans from the Export-Import Bank of China. The loan agreement was reached by both sides through consultation on equal and voluntary basis.

The Chinese Embassy like-

wise cited the profound impact on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the local people as well as ensuring the security of water supply in the National Capital Region (NCR).

"China will continue to work with the Philippines to ensure early implementation of the Kaliwa Dam project for the benefit of the local people," the embassy said.

Once completed, the Kaliwa Dam project will fundamentally alleviate the severe challenge of water shortage in Metro Manila, the embassy said, noting that it is of great significance to meet the long-term water demand and improve the basic quality of life of local people.

The project is one of the great achievements in helping the Philippines with more livelihood projects within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Build Build program.

Meanwhile, Marcelino Tena of the Tribal Center for Development Foundation belied reports that their community approved the construction of the Kaliwa Dam, a project that will affect indigenous peoples' communities in Rizal and Quezon.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), the proponent of the project, earlier said

the Dumagat communities had already given their support for the project to push through.



## China: Kaliwa Dam a 'great achievement'

BY ASHZEL HACHERO

THE P12.2 billion Kaliwa Dam project is seen to be one of Beijing's "great achievements" in the country under the leadership of President Duterte.

The Chinese Embassy in Manila yesterday said that "the project is one of the great achievements in helping the Philippines with more livelihood projects through China-Philippines mutually beneficial infrastructure cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Build, Build, Build plan."

"It is of great significance to meet the long-term water demand and improve the basic quality of the life of the local people," it added as it underscored the role it will play in alleviating water shortage in Metro Manila and neighboring areas.

President Duterte had been pushing for the construction of the Kaliwa Dam, saying it is the last resort to resolve the water shortage in the metropolis.

The President's insistence comes amid concerns raised by environmentalists and local communities on the negative effects of the project.

If the infrastructure undertaking pushes through, an estimated 420 families will be affected in the

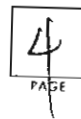
Quezon part of the Sierra Madre mountain range.

Also, members of the Dumagat-Remontado tribe in Daraitan, Tanay, Rizal have warned that it will cause the Tinipak river to overflow and inundate their community.

The dam project will be funded under a loan agreement forged by the Duterte government with the Export-Import Bank of China, which was supposedly reached by Beijing and Manila based on consultations on equal and voluntary basis.

"The terms and conditions of the agreement are general and standardized requirements in accordance with both international practice and Philippine laws, as suggested by the results of reviews conducted by the Department of Finance, Department of Justice and other relevant government sectors of the Philippines before the agreement was signed," the embassy said.

The embassy also allayed concerns on the project's effects on the environment and local communities, citing Duterte's earlier order to government agencies to "critically evaluate the project's economic practicality and compliance of environmental protection rules and bidding procedures to ensure the project is well qualified."



# China to push through with Kaliwa Dam project

**By Cristina  
Lee-Pisco**

CHINA will continue to work with the Philippines to ensure the early implementation of the Kaliwa Dam Project in Quezon for the benefit of the local people saying it is one of Beijing's

"great achievements" in helping Manila.

The statement was issued yesterday by the Chinese Embassy in Manila, stressing the project is an important part of the New Centennial Water Source of the Philippines.

"Once completed, the Kaliwa Dam Project will fundamentally al-

leviate the severe challenge of the water shortage in the Metro Manila. It is of great significance to meet the long-term water demand and improve the basic quality of the life of the local people," the statement said.

China added the project will help the Phil-

ippines provide more livelihood projects through China-Philippines mutually beneficial infrastructure cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Build, Build, Build plan, aiming to instill a greater sense of fulfillment and satisfaction among "our peoples."

Before proceeding with the project, China stressed relevant Philippine authorities have ordered to critically evaluate the project's economic practicality and compliance of environmental protection rules and bidding procedures to ensure the project is well qualified.





## China to help ensure early Kaliwa Dam implementation

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icance to meet the long-term water demand and improve the basic quality of the life of the local people," the statement said.

This would help the Philippines provide more livelihood projects through China-Philippines mutually beneficial infrastructure cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Build, Build, Build plan, aiming to instill a greater sense of fulfillment and satisfaction among our peoples, it said.

Before proceeding with the project, China stressed relevant Philippine authorities had ordered to critically evaluate the project's economic practicality and com-

pliance of environmental protection rules and bidding procedures to ensure the project is well qualified.

In addition, the Philippine government has committed to covering the cost of migration of the indigenous people affected by the implementation of the project, it said.

The China-funded Kaliwa Dam project, which will be constructed along Rizal and Quezon provinces is seen to augment the water supply from Angat Dam by providing 600 million liters of raw water per day, addressing the water shortage in Metro Manila.

**Cristina Lee-Pisco**



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## A looming water crisis



WE'VE written about it in past columns, and we're focusing on it once again to emphasize its importance. With the national government focusing on alleged onerous contracts entered into by the two water concessionaires in Metro Manila, it appears to be a classic case of the tail wagging the dog, with the bigger—and more serious problem—of putting in place an alternative water source for 16.5 million city residents relegated to the background.

Here's what we have gathered on this issue.

Angat Dam alone supplies 97 percent of the water needs of Metro Manila. With the exponential growth of the urban population, so have their water needs expanded. Along with this, climate change and global warming have led to erratic weather patterns, including unpredictable rainfall. Insufficient rainfall led to last summer's water supply disruptions

**“The two water concessionaires are taking proactive measures to mitigate water supply reduction.”**

and rationing.

The water supply problem is not new. It was in 1997, or more than two decades ago, that the Ramos administration deemed it necessary to conclude concession agreements with Maynilad Water Services and Manila Water to deal with dwindling water supply. As far back as the Marcos era in the 1970s, the national government had already drawn up plans to find an alternative source to meet the demands of a growing urban population, but these were not implemented for one reason or another.

We understand that Angat Dam's maximum supply capacity is 4,000 million liters per day. Maynilad and Manila Water both rely on whatever water volume from

the dam that can be supplied to them by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), which is dependent on whatever volume is released to it on a daily basis by the National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

The two concessionaires also draw water from Laguna de Bay and during emergencies are allowed by the NWRB to extract water from deep wells. But the combined volume obtained from these extra sources is minimal and cannot offset any major supply deficit from Angat Dam.

The MWSS has admitted that the government is partly to blame for last summer's water shortage because of its failure to do what had been planned in the 1970s yet, which was to build an alternative reservoir to augment Angat Dam's supply. Hence, President Duterte now wants the government to build the Kaliwa Dam as the national capital's alternate water supply reservoir. But it would take four to five years to build the Kaliwa Dam, which would cost P12.2 billion. In other words, Metro Manila's water crisis would get worse before relief comes only after six years.

Recently, the MWSS revealed Angat  
*Turn to A5*

## A looming...

From A4

Dam's water supply can no longer meet the demand of Metro Manila between 2020 and 2025. Hence, the urgent need to construct the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project as soon as possible.

Here's what the MWSS said: "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 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 agency pointed out.

Before MWSS made this big revelation about inadequate water, the NWRB had already raised the possibility of continued water supply interruptions until the summer months because of the below-normal water level at Angat Dam. Despite the con-

tinuous rains last quarter, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) announced that Angat Dam's water level peaked at 201.71 meters last week, or far below the ideal yearend level target of 212 meters. Due to the lower-than-expected water volume, NWRB will continue managing water releases.

While the government tries to speed up the construction of Kaliwa Dam to meet Metro Manila's water needs, the two water concessionaires are taking proactive measures to mitigate water supply reduction.

For instance, Maynilad completed last year its Putatan 2 Water Treatment Plant (WTP) as well as the upgrade of its Putatan WTP 1 in Muntinlupa City. These will contribute a combined 60 MLD of water, and next month it will complete its NRW (non-revenue water) or leakage reduction program, which will add another 94 MLD. Last December, Maynilad finished reactivating deep wells to supply another 94 MLD.

Apart from these, Maynilad will deploy mobile water tankers, and undertake other activities like cloud seeding and rainwater harvesting, to assist customers with their water needs. This is part of the water concessionaire's decision to invest a total of P25 billion in non-revenue water management in the past 12 years.

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## JOE'S TAKE

By Joe Zaldarriaga

**K**ONTROBERSIYAL at tinututukan ng gobyerno sa kasalukuyan ang usapin ukol sa Concession Agreements (CA) noong 1997 ng Maynilad Water Services, Inc. at ng Manila Water Co. Ngunit bukod sa isyung ito, may isyu na mas nangailangan ng pansin ng ating gobyerno. Ito ay ang krisis sa supply ng tubig na maaaring makaapekto sa milyon-milyong konsumer mula sa Metro Manila, ilang mga lugar sa Rizal, Laguna, Bulacan, at Cavite.

Sa kasalukuyan, 97% ng kabuuang supply sa tubig ng mga residente sa Mega Manila ay nanggagaling sa Angat Dam. Ang Angat Dam, ayon sa datos, ay nasa 60 taon na ang tagal. Ngayong nasa kritikal na lebel ito, ibig sabihin ay kailangan ng karagdagan mapagkukuhanan

ng supply ng tubig upang maging sapat ito sa dami ng konsumer na umaasa rito na ngayon nga ay umaabot na sa bilang na 16.5 milyon.

Panahon pa ng panununo ng mga Marcos nang magkaroon ng plano na humanap o gumawa ng alternatibong mapagkukunan ng supply ng tubig ngunit nakailang patit na ng administrasyon mula noong mabuo ang nasabing plano ay nanatili pa rin itong plano.

Ayon sa mga eksperto, mas maagang nararamdaman ang kakulangan ng supply sa tubig dahil sa tinatayang climate change at dahil na rin sa patuloy na paglaki ng ating populasyon. Mas lumalaki ang demand ngunit ang pinagkukunan ng supply ay hindi nataragdag.

Ang mas hindi kaaya-ayang balita ukol dito ay bukod sa ilang mga hakbang ukol sa pagkontrol ng demand at pagtitipid

# KRISIS SA SUPPLY NG TUBIG, PAANO MALALABANAN?

sa pagganit ng tubig, wala nang ibang magagawa ang Maynilad at Manila Water sa nasabing problema. Hindi malayong maulit ang nangyaring malabhang kasalanan sa supply ng tubig na naranasan bago mag-1997. Responsibilidad ng ating gobyerno ang gumawa ng alternatibong mapagkukunan ng supply ng tubig upang masiguro na sapat ito hindi lang sa kasalukuyan kundi pati na rin sa pangmatagalang panahon.

Tinatayang nasa 4,000 million liters per day (MLD) ang kapasidad ng Angat Dam. Ngunit ang dami ng maaaring maisupply ng Maynilad at Manila Water sa mga konsumer ay depende lamang sa dami ng supply na manggagaling sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS). Ang MWSS naman ay umaasa lamang din sa dami ng tubig na pinakawalan ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

Ang Maynilad at Manila Water ay pare-

hong kumukuha rin ng karagdagan supply ng tubig mula sa Laguna de Bay. At para sa mga pagkakataong lubhang malubha ang pangangailangan, pinapayagan din sila na kumuha ng supply mula sa mga deep well. Ngunit ang mga karagdagan pinagkukuhanan ng supply na mga ito ay hindi sapat upang mapunan ang anumang kakulangan sa supply na dapat ay nanggagaling sa Angat Dam.

Noong 2019, bago pa man ang kasagsagan ng isyu ng kakulangan sa supply ng tubig, nabanggit ni MWSS Chief Regulator Patrick Ty na nagkaroon din ng pagkukulang sa partido ng gobyerno kaya nagkaroon ng kakulangan sa supply sa tubig noong nakaraang panahon ng tag-init. Hindi kasi nito isinakatuparan ang napakatagal nang plano na humanap at gumawa ng alternatibong mapagkukunan ng supply ng tubig upang hindi lamang sa Angat Dam umaasa para sa sapat na supply - isang planong nananatili-

ing naka-tenggu mula pa noong 1970s.

Noong Oktubre 2015 pa lamang ay nagkakaroon na ng mga pagkaantala sa supply ng tubig bunsod nga ng kritikal na lebel sa Angat Dam ngunit walang gumawa ng aksiyon patungkol dito.

Buti na lamang ay nagdesisyon na si Pangulong Duterte, sa tulong ng Office Development Assistance (ODA) mula sa China, na ipagawana ang Kaliwa Dam upang ito ang magsilbing alternatibong supply ng tubig ng Metro Manila. Ito ang isang desisyon na hindi nagawa ng mga nauna sa kanya.

Sa kabila ng desisyon ito ni Pangulong Duterte na maglaan ng budget na P12.2 milyon para sa pagpapagawa ng Kaliwa Dam, nakalulungkot isipin na aabutin pa ng apat hanggang limang taon bago ito tuluyang matapos. Sa madaling salita, maaaring umaabot sa kalahati ng isang dekada ang problemang ito ukol sa kakulangan ng supply ng tubig bago

muling makaramdam ng kaginhawaan ang bansa.

Nakapangangamba ang balitang binitawan ng MWSS noong Enero 8 na nagsasabing hindi na kakayanan ng Angat Dam at ng iba pang maliit na mapagkukuhanan ng supply ng tubig na matustusan ang demand ng Mega Manila mula ngayong 2020 hanggang sa taong 2025. Ito ang naging dahilan kung bakit kinailangan na talagang gawin ang New Centennial Water Resource - Kaliwa Dam Project.

Ayon sa Policy, Planning, and Public Relations Department ng MWSS, pinamamatalala ni Pangulong Duterte ang pagpapagawa ng nasabing proyekto upang maiwasan ang pagdanas ng panibagong krisis sa kakulangan ng supply ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Sinabi ng MWSS, "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."

"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," dagdag pa nito.

Mismong si Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia, isa sa mga magagaling na ekonomista ni Pangulong Duterte, ay nagbigay na ng palayag ukol sa nakaamibang kakulangan sa tubig na nararamdaman ngayong taon pagpasok ng panahon ng tag-init. Makaapekto raw ito sa paglago ng ating ekonomiya.

(Sundan sa pahina 9)

## Krisis sa supply... (Mula sa pahina 8)

Nilinaw naman ni National Economic Development Authority (Deputy) Undersecretary Adoracion Navarro na ang inasahang mararanasang kakulangan sa supply ng tubig ngayong 2020 ay walang kinalaman sa kontrobersiya ukol sa mga CA ng Maynilad at ng Manila Water. Nilinaw niya na ito ay bunsod ng kritikal na lebel ng tubig sa Angat Dam at hindi dahil sa mga kumpanyang nagsusupply nito sa mga konsumer.

Sa kabila ng tuloy-tuloy na pag-ulan noong nakaraang taon, ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Association (PAGASA), ang naitalang pinakamataas na lebel ng Angat Dam na nasa 201.71 metro noong nakaraang linggo ay lubhang mas mababa pa sa target na 212 metro sa pagtatapos ng 2019. Bunsod nito, sinabi ni NWRB Executive Director Seville David, Jr. na magpapatuloy ang NWRB sa pagkontrol

ng dami ng maaaring i-supply sa mga konsumer at hindi maaasahan na makakakuha ng normal na alokasyon.

Inumpisahan na ito ngayong buwan ng Enero 2020. Naglaan ang NWRB ng 40 cubic meter per second (cms) o 3,450 million liters per day (MLD) ng tubig sa MWSS at ito ang paghahatian ng Maynilad at ng Manila Water ngayong buwan. Ito ay mas mababa sa normal na alokasyon na 46-48 cms na karaniwang ginagamit sa mga tahanan.

Dagdag pa ni David na magpapatuloy ang nararanasang pagkaantala ng supply ng tubig sa mga kabahayan na nanggagaling sa Angat Dam upang masiguro ng mayroong sapat na dami ng tubig hanggang sa pagsapit ng habagat o panahon ng tag-ulan.

Sa gitna ng nagbabad-ayang krisis sa supply ng tubig, makaaasa tayong mga konsumer na ginagawa ng Maynilad ang kanilang makakaya upang mapagaan ang epekto ng nasa-

bing krisis sa supply sa kanilang mga customer.

Noong 2019 ay natapos na ng Maynilad ang kanilang pinagawang Pututan 2 Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at ang pagsasaayos ng pasilidad sa Pututan 1 WTP sa siyudad ng Muntinlupa. Kung pagsasamahin, ang mga pasilidad na ito ay may kabuuang 60 MLD ng tubig. Napiipinto na rin ang pagtatapos ng non-revenue water (NWR) o leakage reduction program ng Maynilad sa Pebrero 2019. Ito ay tinatayang makakapagdagdag ng 94 MLD sa supply.

Bukod pa sa nabanggit, noong nakaraang Disyembre 2019 ay natapos na rin ng Maynilad ang muling pagpapagana ng mga deepwell na makakadagdag din ng 94 MLD. Sa pakikipagtulungan din sa MWSS, mas mabilis na makukuha ng Maynilad ang mga dokumento ng pahintulot na kailangan nito para sa pagtatapos ng Cavite MTP Dam sa buwan ng Abril ngayong 2020. Ito ay magbibigay ng karagdagan 27 MLD.

Ang lahat ng hakbang na ito na ginawa ng Maynilad ay makapagbibigay ng karagdagan 223 MLD na supply ng tubig sa mga customer nito bago pa sumapit ang panahon ng tag-init.

Bahagi rin sa mga plano ng Maynilad ang paglalabas ng 50 na mobile water tankers at paglalagay ng 14 SWT na tangke, kasabay ng ilan pang hakbang gaya ng cloud seeding at rainwater harvesting para sa mga customer nito.

Dahil sa mga hakbang na ito na ginawa ng Maynilad ay nakabawi ito ng 979 MLD kada araw na maaaring makapag-supply ng tubig na maiinom para sa 1.7 na konsumer sa lungsod. Ito na ang magandang bunga ng naging desisyon ng Maynilad ng mamuhunan ng P25-B para sa pamamahala ng NRW sa nakaraang 12 taon.

Makaaasa ang mga customer ng Maynilad na sila ay protektado mula sa nakaamibang krisis sa supply ng tubig sa Metro Manila.



# 'Baguio's cesspool watering famous La Trinidad strawberries'

By ARTEMIO DUMLAO

LA TRINIDAD – Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong told national officials over the weekend here that the famous strawberries in La Trinidad, Benguet grow on water from Baguio's cesspool.

In his presentation of Baguio's rehabilitation during a top-level meeting with Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, Environment Assistant Secretary Jesus Salazar representing Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año and Baguio-La Trinidad-Itogon-Sablan-Tuba-Tublay (BLISTT) leaders on Friday, Magalong said in jest that strawberries, the main product of neighboring town La Trinidad, grow on water from the "polluted" Balili River.

"Where do we get water for the strawberry farm? Sometimes, when we go strawberry-picking, when we see a really big strawberry, we eat it at once," Magalong said as he exposed Baguio's woes on air quality, water supply and solid waste management.

It brought laughter and giggles but disdain from La Trinidad officials present, including its Mayor Romeo Salda and Benguet Gov. Melchor Diclas.

Diclas left the meeting after a few minutes while Salda stayed.

Magalong was advocating additional space in the sewerage treatment plant, which currently operates at 12,400 cubic meters daily – way above its normal operating capacity of only 8,600 cubic meters – pursuant to its design that needs urgent rehabilitation considering the increase in the number of houses in the city, which has reached over 90,000.

Salda, however, disproved Magalong, saying there is no irrigation from Balili River going to the swamp area where strawberry farms are.

"We have a source from the creek from Pico and Puguis but none from Balili River," Salda said.

Balili River, which spans from Kilometer 3 to Kilometer 6, remains polluted due to illegal

waste discharge. Its headwaters are Baguio City.

The ailing state of the river prompted the creation of the Balili River System Coalition, which is composed of Baguio City, La Trinidad and Sablan and the province of Benguet, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), the private sector, academe and civil society groups.

Later, Salda said Magalong had apologized through a text message.

"My apologies if you felt slighted with my pronouncement regarding Balili River and our strawberry farm. I believe it was uncalled for. I will make amends," the text message from Magalong read.

Water from springs, deep wells and water deliveries irrigate the strawberries farms, according to La Trinidad Farmers Irrigators Association head Jumy Buya.

Meanwhile, La Trinidad tourism officer Valred Olsim urged other officials within BLISTT areas to be circumspect in issuing or uttering statements that can have a negative impact on their neighbors.

Olsim also said Balili River is far from the strawberry farms and farmers, together with the municipal government of La Trinidad, are taking necessary measures to ensure the safety of visitors and all the people in the capital town of Benguet.

"We are presently working for the passage of the tourism code of our town to set standards that should be followed, especially on agri-tourism sites," he said.

"We wish to point out that some of the information there are not true," Olsim said, referring to Magalong's statement. "Balili River is not connected to the farm."

He stressed that in the

spirit of the BLISTT concept where local government units of each municipality, including Baguio, are supposedly cooperating with one another to promote the benefit of all, officials should be careful in their comments.

"As leaders of the BLISTT community, we should consider how others will feel, especially our neighbors, because tourism has no boundaries," he said.

Most of the tourists who go to Baguio also go to La Trinidad strawberry farms for strawberry-picking and other attractions of Benguet.





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FILE: Rehabilitating the 'City of Pines'

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE





# Rehabilitating the 'City of Pines'

**A**fter Boracay and Manila Bay, the government now turns its attention to the environmental degradation that has befallen Baguio City.

The city government itself, led by Mayor Benjamin Magalong, is leading the cleanup drive with a 15-year program that will start with Burnham Park, the city's famous center which is probably the most frequently visited part of the city by tourists coming mostly from the lowlands in the south.

The national government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Interior and Local Government, will be involved in the enforcement of environmental and other laws. The Department of Tourism is committing to a ₱480-million improvement of Burnham Park.

There are many tourist attractions around the city, but it is at Burnham Park, with its small lake and tiny rowboats, where everybody ends up. Not too far away is Mine's View Park, but it is constantly jammed with traffic.

In fact, the entire city now suffers from heavy traffic. On any given day, but especially during weekends and holidays, thousands of cars speed through the series of expressways from Metro Manila, only to slow down to a crawl up Kennon Road. There simply are too many visitors and too many vehicles.

With so many people, both residents and visitors, Mayor Magalong has included the boosting of the city's sewerage treatment plant among his first projects in his 15-year plan. This need may not be readily visible, but it is at the core of any environmental problem, such

as in Boracay and in Manila Bay.

To many visitors, the more obvious change they have seen in Baguio over the years has been the sight of so many small houses clinging to the sides of mountains, slopes that used to be green with trees. These and other structures so dominate the landscape where there used to be pine trees, so that some critics ask if Baguio is still the "City of Pines."

Baguio, chartered in 1909, was originally designed for 25,000 people by American architect Daniel Burnham. It suffered much destruction at the end of World War II in 1945 and in the Luzon earthquake of 1990, but it has continued to grow, with a construction boom and an urban sprawl that destroyed many of the city's pine trees.

The city's population has been estimated at around 400,000, but the visitors from the lowlands were estimated at 1.8 million in 2018, up from 1.5 million in 2017. At this rate, the weekend population of the city must be over 2 million by now and increasing. No wonder, Baguio has a pollution and sewage problem and Mayor Magalong has made expansion of the city's sewage system one of the first projects of his 15-year plan.

Baguio will continue to grow and it will continue to draw visitors in the millions because it is blessed with good weather and now, with the new expressways, greater accessibility. The pollution, over-construction, and traffic will be the principal targets of the rehabilitation program. But the people will more easily see its success and welcome it when they see more pine trees growing all over the city so that it is once again truly the "City of Pines."



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1/ \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## EDITORIAL

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With so many people, both residents and visitors, Mayor Magalong has included the boosting of the city's sewerage treatment plant among his first projects in his 15-year plan. This need may not be readily visible, but it is at the core of any environmental problem, such as in Boracay and in Manila Bay.

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Baguio will continue to grow and it will continue to draw visitors in the millions because it is blessed with good weather and now, with the new expressways, greater accessibility. The pollution, over-construction, and traffic will be the principal targets of the rehabilitation program. But the people will more easily see its success and welcome it when they see more pine trees growing all over the city so that it is once again truly the "City of Pines."



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## EDITORIAL

# Rehabilitasyon sa 'City of Pines'

MATAPOS ang Boracay at Manila Bay, itinuon naman ng pamahalaan ngayon ang atensiyon sa pagkasira ng kapaligiran ng Baguio City.

Mismong ang lokal na pamahalaan, sa pangunguna ni Mayor Benjamin Magalong, ang nanguna sa cleanup drive na bahagi ng 15-year program na mag-uumpisa sa Burnham Park, ang sikat na sentro ng lungsod na pinakamadalas na puntahan ng mga turista na dumadayo mula sa mga mabababang lugar sa timog ng bansa.

Magiging bahagi ang pambansang pamahalaan, sa pamamagitan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources at ng Department of Interior and Local Government, sa pagpapatupad ng mga batas sa lugar. Habang nangako rin ang Department of Tourism ng P480 milyon para sa pagpapaganda ng Burnham Park.

Maraming tourist attraction sa lungsod, ngunit ag Burnham park, na may maliit na lawa at maliliit na mga bangka, ang nagpapaakit sa mga turista. Hindi ito kalayuan sa Mine's View Park, na madalas na matindi ang trapik.

Sa katunayan, nararanasan ngayon ng buong lungsod ang matinding trapik. Anumang araw, lalo na tuwing weekends at holidays, libu-libong sasakyan ang bumabiyaha sa expressway mula Metro Manila, paakyat sa Kennon Road. Masyadong maraming bisita at sasakyan sa lungsod.

Dahil sa karamihan ng tao, mga residente at bisita, isinama na ni Mayor Magalong ang pagsasaayos ng sewerage treatment plant ng lungsod bilang bahagi ng unang proyekto sa kanyang 15-year plan. Maaaring hindi pa ito agarang kailangan, ngunit nasa sentro ito ng anumang problema sa kalikasan, tulad sa Boracay at sa Manila Bay.

Para sa maraming bisita, pinakalantad na pagbabago na nakita nila sa Baguio sa mga nakalipas na taon, ang pagdami ng mga maliliit na bahay na nakatirik sa gilid ng bundok, at mga dalisdis na dating natataniman ng mga puno. Ito at ang iba pang istruktura ang sumakop na sa mga magagandang lugar na dating natatamnan ng mga pine trees, dahilan upang matanong ng ilan kung maituturing pa rin na "City of Pine" ang Baguio.

Itinatag noong 1909, orihinal na idinisenyo ang Baguio para sa 25,000 tao ng American architect na si Daniel Burnham. Nakaranas ito ng matinding pagkasira noong 1945 sa pagtatapos ng Ikalawang Digmaang Pandaigdig at ang paglindol sa Luzon noong 1990, ngunit patuloy itong lumago, kung saan dumami ang mga istruktura at paglaganap ng urban na sumira sa maraming pine trees ng siyudad.

Tinatayang nasa 400,000 na ang populasyon ng siyudad, ngunit tinataya namang umabot sa 1.8 milyon noong 2018 ang bumisita sa Baguio, mas mataas sa 1.5 milyon noong 2017. Sa datos na ito, tinatayang umaabot ng mahigit 2 milyon ang weekend population ng siyudad at patuloy pang tumataas. Hindi na kataka-taka, na nagkaroon ng problema sa polusyon at sewage system ang Baguio na naging dahilan din para maging bahagi ng 15-year plan, ang pagsasaayos ng sewage system.

Patuloy na lalago ang Baguio at patuloy rin aakit ng milyong-milyong bisita, dahil na rin sa maganda nitong klima at mas magandang mga daan. Ang polusyon, labis na konstruksiyon at trapik ang pangunahing tuon ng rehabilitasyon. Ngunit mas madaling makikita ng mga tao ang tagumpay nito kapag nasilayan nila ang mga tumutubong pine trees sa palibot ng lungsod, upang muli maging tunay na "City of Pines" ang lungsod.





**EDC TURNS OVER GREENING PROJECT:** EDC-Burgos Wind Power Corp. recently turned over its adopted National Greening Program area in three municipalities of Ilocos Norte namely Vintar, Solsona and Bangui to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Under the program, the company has planted more than 790,000 seedlings of indigenous tree species and achieved 80 percent survival rate of these species within the three-year adoption period. Representatives of Provincial Environment and Natural Resources, City Environment and Natural Resources, and five of the People's Organization partners came to the turn-over ceremony. Ilocos Norte Governor Matthew Manotoc (seated, 3rd from right) graced the ceremony and expressed his gratitude to EBWPC for this project and for the assistance that it provides to the communities.



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 17

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



### GREENING TURNOVER.

EDC-Burgos Wind Power Corp. recently turned over its adopted National Greening Program area in the municipalities of Vintar, Solsona and Bangui in Ilocos Norte to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Under the program, the company planted more than 790,000 seedlings of indigenous tree species and achieved 80 percent survival rate of these species within its three-year adoption period. Representatives of Provincial Environment and Natural Resources, City Environment and Natural Resources, and five People's Organization partners came to the turn-over ceremony. Ilocos Norte Governor Matthew Manotoc also graced the event and expressed his gratitude to EDC-Burgos for this project and for the assistance that it provides to the communities.



## 3 illegal loggers nabbed in Ecija

**BONGABON, Nueva Ecija** – Police conducted Oplan Sita operations and apprehended three men in a closed van containing illegally-cut lumber flitches early Sunday morning.

Town police head Major Ador Depnag identified the suspects as 53-year-old Charlie Interia, driver of the van with plate number WPM-740; Romulo Marantes, 39, and Jaylord Sabaria, 20, all of Bgy. Labi, this town.

The Oplan Sita was conducted shortly after police was informed that the van would pass the highway around 4:20 a.m.

Seized in the operation were 29 pieces of assorted types of illegally-cut common hardwood valued at P9,810.

Corporal Samuel Corpuz said the three suspects could not present any document for to the wood shipment.

"Bagong tistis pa ang mga kahoy na galing daw sa bundok, nasabat namin sila sa Oplan Sita kasi nga may tip na dadaan dito ang isang van daw at iyun nga nakalawit pa sa may puwitan ng van yung kahoy kaya kita agad yung kargamento," Corpuz told this reporter yesterday.

The suspects will be charged with violation of P.D. 705.

**Steve A. Gosucio**



## 3 nabbed for illegal logging in Nueva Ecija, van seized

By **STEVE A. GOSUICO**

**BONGABON, Nueva Ecija** - Acting on a tip from a concerned citizen, police immediately conducted Oplan Sita operations and apprehended three men aboard a green closed van who were caught transporting assorted illegally-cut lumber slitches here early Sunday morn-

ing. Town police head Major Ador Depnag identified those nabbed as Charlie Interia, driver of van with license plates WPM-740, 53, Romulo Marantes, 39, and Jaylord Sabaria, 20, all of Bgy. Labi, this town.

The Oplan Sita operation was conducted shortly after the police got a tip that a van described as such would pass the highway at 4:20 a.m.

Seized during the operation were 29 pieces of assorted types of illegally-cut common hardwood species with sizes of 2x3x10 and 2x5x10, comprising about 200 board feet and valued at P9,810.

During routine inspection, Corporal Samuel Corpuz, investigator-on-case, said the three suspects could not present pertinent documents related to their wood shipment,

prompting the operating lawmen to take them in custody.

"Bagong tistis pa ang mga kahoy na galing daw sa bundok, nasabat namin sila sa Oplan Sita kasi nga may tip na dadaan dito ang isang van daw at iyun nga nakalawit pa sa may puwitan ng van yung kahoy kaya kita agad yung kargamento," Corpuz told this writer yesterday.



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# INQUIRY

A7  
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PAGE 17

DATE

## HOUSING MATERIALS, FOOD AND CASH

# AID WON'T STOP FOR COTABATO EARTHQUAKE EVACUEES

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Cotabato Gov. Nancy Catamco has ordered the province's department heads to continue their relief operations for more than 20,000 evacuees who lost their homes to a series of quakes that rocked Cotabato in October and December last year.

A total 5,676 evacuees are still staying in evacuation centers almost 60 days after the last quake.

Catamco ordered the social welfare and development office in the province and the provincial disaster risk reduction and

management office to continue the distribution of cash and food aid to the evacuees.

### Housing needs

She also ordered the distribution of housing materials such as nails and plywood for the evacuees' temporary shelters.

The Army's 52nd engineering brigade would also build houses for evacuees in Makilala town this month. Catamco said the Army would construct 75 units of temporary core shelter at Pacheco Rubber Farm at Barangay Iuna Norte in Makilala

to accommodate families from Barangay Bato, which had been declared a "no-build zone" by the local government.

The province had monitored 14,569 people whose homes were destroyed by the earthquakes.

### Rebuilding schools

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the region, through the provincial environment and natural resources office, said it would donate 4,000 board feet of lumber to build temporary

learning centers for schools whose classrooms had been damaged.

### Severe damage

The series of earthquakes in October had caused severe damage to houses and livelihood in the towns of Makilala, M'lang, Tulunan, Arakan and Magpet and Kidapawan City.

Another quake, with an epicenter at Matanao town in Davao del Sur province in December, also increased the number of evacuees in Cotabato.

—ORLANDO DINOY INO



## Cavaliers clinch semis top spot

Games Thursday (Paco Arena)  
3 p.m. - Agriculture vs PITC/ 4:30 p.m. - Judiciary vs NHA

Defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) clinched the top seeding in the semis with a 90-83 win over Department of Environment and Natural Resources while Judiciary completed a four-game sweep of the second round of elims in the 8th UNTV Cup held over the weekend at the Paco Arena in Manila.

With Boyet Bautista and Darwin Cordero presiding over the team's assault, the AFP Cavaliers erased a double-digit deficit early in the second quarter on the way to finishing the elims with an 8-1 record.

Cordero topscored with 17 points while Bautista chipped in 15 for the team that advanced outright to the semis as early as last month.

Despite losing two of their last three games, the DENR Warriors got the other automatic semis slot with a 7-2 mark in the event organized by UNTV president and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon for public servants

The Judiciary Magis, on the other hand, closed out with a 7-3 mark for fourth place after capping their perfect second round show with a 66-59 victory over the PITC Global Traders.

Former PBA player Chester Tolomia, who led Judiciary's decisive third-quarter run, scattered 25 points for the team eager to end a five-year title drought.

The Magis, along with the NHA Builders, Department of Agriculture Food Masters and Global Traders, play another round in the quarters with the top two finishers completing the semis cast.

The chosen charity of the champion team will get the P4 million top prize with the runner-up's own foundation getting P2 million.



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### First Game

JUDICIARY 66 - Tolomia 25, Dela Cruz 11, Salamat 8, Ybañez 6, Bergonio 5, Mustre 4, Marquez 3, Dionisio 2.

PITC 59 - Porto 19, Regalado 13, Vasallo 8, Gecale 8, Martin 4, Taplah 3, Lopez 2, Almarinez 2.

Quarters: 13-14, 28-32, 53-44, 66-59.

### Second Game

AFP 90 - Cordero 17, Bautista 15, Lumongsod 13, Quiambao 11, Pascual 10, Araneta 9, Almerol 6, Sergio 5, Resopa 4.

DENR 83 - Lansang 18, Rivera 18, Ayson 17, Parreño 13, Bangal 11, Gamboa 4, Abanes 2.

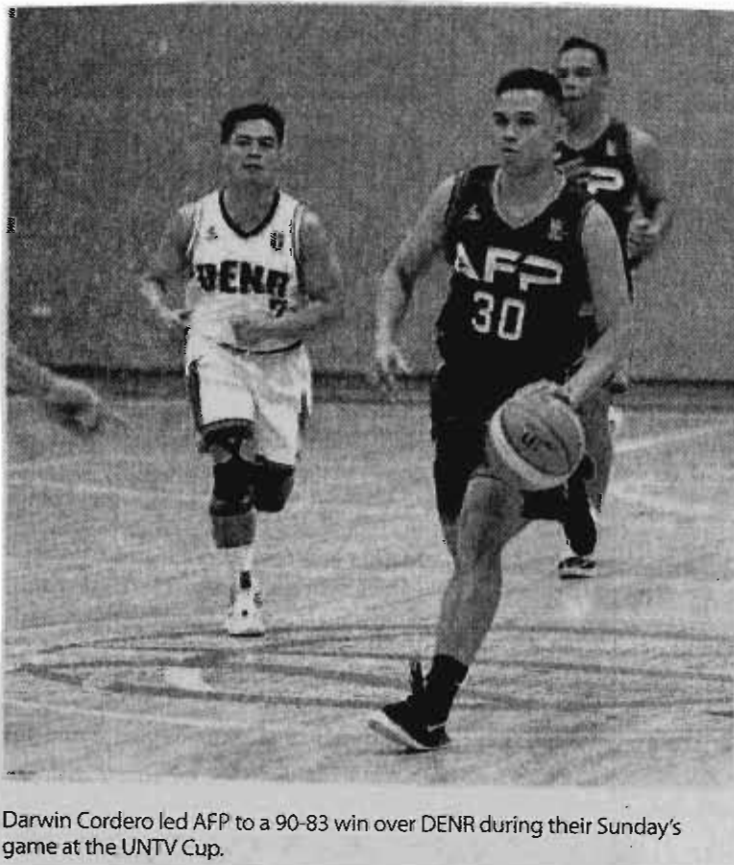
Quarters: 17-24, 38-39, 58-56, 90-83.

### Games Thursday

(Paco Arena)

3 p.m. — Agriculture vs PITC

4:30 p.m. — Judiciary vs NHA



Darwin Cordero led AFP to a 90-83 win over DENR during their Sunday's game at the UNTV Cup.



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1/ \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# Cavs outlast Warriors for top seeding

Games Thursday  
(Paco Arena)

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4:30 p.m. - Judiciary vs NHA

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**DARWIN Cordero (30) led AFP to a 90-83 win over DENR during their Sunday's game at the UNTV Cup.**

semis cast.

The chosen charity of the champion team will get the ₱4 million top prize with the runner-up's own foundation getting ₱2 million.

#### First Game

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Quarters: 17-24, 38-39, 58-56, 90-83.





## Cordero, AFP angat vs DENR

**Mga laro sa Huwebes: (Paco Arena, Manila)**  
**3:00 p.m. - Agriculture vs PITC**  
**4:30 p.m. - Judiciary vs NHA**

Dale ang top seeding semifinals ng defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Cavaliers tapos pabagsakin ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Warriors, 90-83, habang kinumpleto ng Judiciary Magic ang four-game second round elimination sweep sa 8th UNTV Cup 2019-2020 nitong Linggo sa Paco Arena sa Maynila.

Gumatilyo ng 17 points si Darwin Cordero habang 15 markers si Boyet Bautista para sa 8-1 win-loss record ng Cavs at itulak ang bik-tima sa 7-2 pero swak na rin sa Final Four

sa liga na inorganisa ni UNTV president at CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

Kumayod naman ng 25 pts. si former Philippine Basketball Association player Chester Tolomia upang pangunahan ang Judiciary kontra Philippine International Trading Corporation Global Traders, 66-59 para ilagay sa magandang puwesto koponan sa semis.

Kasama naman ng Judiciary Magis ang NHA Builders, DA Food Master at PITC Global Traders sa isa pang round ng bakbakan bago makapasok sa semis.

**Ang mga iskor:**  
First Game  
**JUDICIARY 66** - Tolomia 25, Dela Cruz 11, Salamat 8, Ybañez 6, Bergonio 5, Mustre 4, Marquez 3, Dionisio 2.  
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**Quarters:** 17-24, 38-39, 58-56, 90-83.  
**(Aivan Episcopo)**



Si Darwin Cordero ang bumalikat sa AFP Cavaliers sa pagtibag sa DENR Warriors, 90-83, sa 8th UNTV Cup 2019-2020 second round eliminations nitong Linggo sa Paco Arena, Maynila. (FD)



# First 12 OFWs from Iraq arrive in Phl today

By **MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN**

The first 12 returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) from Baghdad, Iraq are scheduled to arrive in the country today, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

Though tensions between the United States and Iran have cooled down, the government is still moving to get OFWs out of harm's way after Iran bombarded a US airbase in Iraq last week in retaliation for the killing of Iran's top military general Qasem Soleimani.

Accompanied by Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, the returning OFWs will fly to Manila from Doha, Qatar on a Qatar Airways flight.

Lorenzana yesterday said the OFWs will leave Iraq for Qatar Monday night and then leave Doha shortly after midnight, unless there would be flight delays because of the Taal Volcano eruption.

He added that Overseas Workers Welfare Administration administrator Hans Leo Cacdac also left for Saudi Arabia Monday to personally see to the welfare

of OFWs in the Middle East and assist in the repatriation effort.

"Requests for repatriation from OFWs in Iraq, Libya and other Middle East hot-spots have been received by our embassies and consulates and their exit clearances are now being processed," Lorenzana said.

He noted that the Middle East Repatriation Team in Doha, composed of Environment Secretary and special envoy to the Middle East Roy Cimatu, Ambassador Alan Timbayan, Labor Attaché David Dicang, Vice Consul Benjamin Celedio Jr., Administrative Officer Cotawato Arimao and Consul General Roussel Reyes, are exploring all possible routes of repatriation by commercial airlines from Baghdad and Erbil in Iraq to Doha and then to Manila.

He said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is ready to deploy at a moment's notice, as coordination by Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. – through diplomatic missions with other countries that may provide landing and/or docking clearances as well

as access to refueling and replenishment facilities – has been ongoing ever since President Duterte gave his order to prepare for the repatriation of Filipinos in the Middle East.

Lorenzana said the frigate *BRP Gregorio de Pilar* and the dock landing ship *BRP Davao del Sur* of the Philippine Navy, with a company-sized contingent of AFP humanitarian assistance personnel onboard, have been designated for the repatriation mission.

The Philippine Air Force, meanwhile, has two C-130s and one C-295 transport aircraft ready to fly to wherever they may be directed to pick up returning Filipinos and bring them to safety.

Lorenzana, chairman of the committee on the repatriation of Filipinos in the Middle East, said the AFP

will no longer be sending two battalions of uniformed troops to help in repatriation efforts.

He explained that the Department of Foreign Affairs, Cimatu and the Department of Labor and Employment commented in the committee's last meeting that it may not be wise to send uniformed servicemen to the Middle East due to the sensitivities of the countries there. A small contingent of unarmed servicemen in civilian attire would be sent instead.



TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1/ \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## OFW Iraq to Doha exodus begins

BY RENE ACOSTA  
@reneacostaBM

**T**HE first batch of Filipinos being moved out of Iraq will depart on Monday night for Qatar, where they will await their flight back home, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Monday.

The flight to Manila from Doha may be delayed, though, following the cancellation of flights at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) due to Taal Volcano's phreatic eruption.

The 12 overseas Filipino workers (OFW) represent the first group of overseas workers being repatriated from the Middle East due to Iraq's volatile security situation, sparked

by the January 3 United States air strike that killed Iranian General Qassem Soleimani near Baghdad airport.

"The first batch of 12 returning OFWs from Baghdad, Iraq is scheduled to depart for Doha, Qatar tonight, Monday, January 13 at 9 p.m. [Baghdad time]. They will arrive in Doha at 12:30 a.m., January 14," said Lorenzana, chairman of the government's committee on the repatriation, in a statement released by DND spokesman Arsenio Andolong.

"The OFWs are scheduled to board a Qatar Airways flight to Manila; however, this still has to be finalized as all flights coming into Manila have been canceled because of the Taal Volcano

eruption. [Labor] Secretary Silvestre Bello III, who is in Doha, Qatar, is set to accompany the OFWs on their flight home once their flight is confirmed," Lorenzana added.

The defense chief said Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Administrator Hans Leo Cacdac was supposed to leave on Sunday for Saudi Arabia to personally see to the welfare of Filipino workers in the Middle East and assist in the repatriation effort.

Lorenzana said the government has received requests for repatriation from OFWs in Iraq, Libya, and other Middle East hot spots through its embassies and consulates in the region, and these are already being processed.

SEE "OFW," A2

## OFW...

CONTINUED FROM A8

The Middle East Repatriation Team in Doha, headed by Energy Secretary and Special Envoy to the Middle East Roy A. Cimatu, is exploring all possible routes of repatriation by commercial airlines from Baghdad and Erbil in Iraq to Doha, Qatar, and then to Manila.

Lorenzana said two Philippine Navy ships with a company-sized contingent of military

humanitarian assistance personnel onboard have been designated for the repatriation mission, while two C-130 and one C-295 transport aircraft are also on standby.

The military will send just a small team of soldiers to the Middle East instead of two battalions from the Army and Marines as earlier planned, because of the sensibilities of Middle Eastern countries.

"During the last meeting of the Committee on Repatriation that I presided over as the chairman last Thursday, the DFA, Secretary

Cimatu and the DOLE commented that it may not be wise to send uniformed servicemen to the Middle East due to the sensitivities of the countries there. Hence, it was agreed that we recommend the sending of a small contingent of servicemen instead of two battalions, but they will be in civilian attire and will not be armed should they be needed on the ground," he said.

"Also, two battalions would be a lot and they would be taking much of the spaces on the ship, leaving very little or nothing for the repatriates," he added.



## Let's return Pasig River to its former glory



**Manny F. Dooc**  
**TELLTALES**

**N**O less than our national hero, Jose Rizal, has immortalized the legendary Pasig River in his two novels. In Chapter 7 of *Noli Me Tangere*. An Idyl on an Azotea, Crisostomo Ibarra proposed to his lady love, Maria Clara, while they were seated on the balcony of Kapitan Tiago's house, overlooking the scenic Pasig River. And in his sequel novel, *El Filibusterismo*, Rizal painted a scenery of the Pasig River on board the vessel, Bapor Tabo, while it was sailing along the waterway.

He described the ducks wading through its clear waters, fishermen casting their nets, people bathing, women washing their laundry, children cavorting and splashing waters to passing watercraft, and the colorful spectacle of villages along the river banks. In his one-act zarzuela, "Junto Al Pasig," Rizal longingly wrote:

*"Pretty Pasig, pretty river,  
Wear your best bouquets,  
Happy mornings, dawning,  
Give her all your brightest rays..."*

While in Europe, whenever his memories lingered home, Rizal's mind often revisited the river of his youth, and even compared it to the Rhine River while cruising along the famous waterway. He observed that "if the Pasig River had on its banks more beautiful buildings, it would only envy the Rhine for its long course and abundant waters."

Even up to now, the course and abundant waters of the Pasig River are as valuable to us in many ways if we can only rehabilitate the river. Recognizing this potential, the MMDA has relaunched the Pasig River Ferry Service to relieve Metro Manilans from horrendous traffic before 2019 ended. We all agree that commuting is a daily ordeal that confronts every resident of Metro Manila and suburban dwellers. The government must be more imaginative to relieve our distressed population of their traffic woes. Feasibility studies conducted in the past have indubitably shown that water transport is easily doable and viable. It's heartening to note that ferry travel in the historic Pasig River has been revived and is now operational although at a very limited extent. At present, an average of 1,000 passengers take ferry rides daily, but this will sig-

nificantly increase as more boats were launched to take in more passengers. One company, Dito Telecommunity, has added a bigger boat with a capacity of 150 passengers. The Pasig River was a major transport channel during the Spanish period until the pre-war time. As an alternative transportation system, the ferries are cheaper and faster since there is much less traffic in the river. It will help decongest the land-based road network in Metro Manila and will ease the traffic gridlock, which our commuters contend with every day of their life. There have been several attempts to revive the water transportation along Pasig River, but they were not successful. We should learn from the mistakes of the past, and address the difficulties that bogged down its operations before. The floating waste debris and water hyacinths which clogged the engines of the watercraft, the lack of convenient terminals and irregular schedules of trips are not insoluble, and many enterprises would be willing to participate and provide ferry services since the business is commercially viable. Its major advantage is that it is less expensive to maintain, and the traffic flow is easier to control.

The tapping of the Manila Bay Task Force by President Duterte to lead the overall rehabilitation of Pasig River, including its harnessing for transportation and tourism, will restore the grandeur of the historic waterway. If they can do it in Boracay and work wonders in Manila Bay, cleaning up the Pasig River will be a low-lying fruit. Sen. Sonny Angara

had made perceptive comments on the urgent need to harness the Pasig River for transportation. He has aptly observed that "unlike the road infrastructure, which entails massive disruptions to traffic and other issues such as road right-of-way, the Pasig River ferry project simply involves constructing, or refurbishing, the stations and purchasing the vessels. Improving ridership is definitely a challenge, but one that can easily be addressed by ensuring that the system will be able to operate reliably and consistently." We should not tarry and delay the full restoration and operation of the Pasig River ferry services. Our daily commuters, mostly carless workers and hapless students who cannot afford to hire school service suffer intolerably. It's a daily struggle to wait for a ride and a torment to be packed inside a crowded LRT, non-air-conditioned buses and jeepneys amid monstrous traffic jams before one gets to his destination.

Pasig River is not dead. The government is on the right track to pull its resources to get it fully rehabilitated. Under the able and proven leadership of DENR, MMDA, DPWH, we can restore the life and vitality of the fabled river, and revive it as a lifeblood of transportation and commerce as in the age of yore. As our National Artist Nicanor Abelardo had hankered in his soulful song "Mutya ng Pasig:"

*"Kung nais ninyong ako'y mabuhay,  
Pag-ibig ko'y inyong ibigay."*

Let's all work together, and return Pasig River to its former glory.



# Australia shows us the road to hell

By **PAUL KRUGMAN**

*The New York Times*

In a rational world, the burning of Australia would be a historic turning point. After all, it's exactly the kind of catastrophe climate scientists long warned us to expect if we didn't take action to limit greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, a 2008 report commissioned by the Australian government predicted that global warming would cause the country's fire seasons to begin earlier, end later and be more intense – starting around 2020.

Furthermore, although it may seem callous to say it, this disaster is unusually photogenic. You don't need to pore over charts and statistical tables; this is a horror story told by walls of fire and terrified refugees huddled on beaches.

So this should be the moment when governments finally began urgent efforts to stave off climate catastrophe.

But the world isn't rational. In fact, Australia's anti-environmentalist government seems utterly unmoved as the nightmares of environmentalists become reality. And the anti-environmentalist media, the Murdoch empire in particu-

lar, has gone all-out on disinformation, trying to place the blame on arsonists and "greenies" who won't let fire services get rid of enough trees.

These political reactions are more terrifying than the fires themselves.

Climate optimists have always hoped for a broad consensus in favor of measures to save the planet. The trouble with getting action on climate, the story went, was that it was hard to get people's attention: The issue was complex, while the damage was too gradual and too invisible. In addition, the big dangers lay too far in the future. But surely once enough people had been informed about the dangers, once the evidence for global warming became sufficiently overwhelming, climate action would cease to be a partisan issue.

The climate crisis, in other words, would eventually become the moral equivalent of war – an emergency transcending the usual political divides.

But if a country in flames isn't enough to produce a consensus for action – if it isn't even enough to produce some mod-

eration in the anti-environmentalist position – what is? The Australia experience suggests that climate denial will persist come hell or high water – that is, through devastating heat waves and catastrophic storm surges alike.

You might be tempted to dismiss Australia as a special case, but the same deepening partisan division has long been underway in the United States. As late as the 1990s, Democrats and Republicans were almost equally likely to say that the effects of global warming had already begun. Since then, however, partisan views have diverged, with Democrats increasingly

Turn to page 8

## Australia... From page 7

likely to see climate change happening (as indeed it is), while Republicans increasingly see and hear no climate evil.

Does this divergence reflect changing party composition? After all, highly educated voters have been moving toward the Democrats, less-educated voters toward the Republicans. So is it a matter of how well-informed each party's base is?

Probably not. There's substantial evidence that conservatives who are highly educated and well informed about politics are *more* likely than other conservatives to say things that aren't true, probably because they are more likely to know what the conservative political elite wants them to believe. In particular, conservatives with high scientific literacy and numeracy are especially likely to be climate deniers.

But if climate denial and opposition to action are immovable even in the face of obvious catastrophe, what hope is there for avoiding the apocalypse? Let's be honest with ourselves: Things are looking pretty grim. However, giving up is not an option. What's the path forward?

The answer, pretty clearly, is that scientific persuasion is running into sharply diminishing returns. Very few of the people still denying the reality of climate change or at least opposing doing anything about it will be moved by further accumulation of evidence, or even by a proliferation of new disasters. Any action that does take place will have to do so in the face of intractable right-wing opposition.

This means, in turn, that climate action will have to offer immediate benefits to large numbers of voters, because policies that seem to require widespread sacrifice – such as policies that rely

mainly on carbon taxes – would be viable only with the kind of political consensus we clearly aren't going to get.

What might an effective political strategy look like? I've been rereading a 2014 speech by eminent political scientist Robert Keohane, who suggested that one way to get past the political impasse on climate might be via "an emphasis on huge infrastructural projects that created jobs" – in other words, a Green New Deal. Such a strategy could give birth to a "large climate-industrial complex," which would actually be a good thing in terms of political sustainability.

Can such a strategy succeed? I don't know. But it looks like our only chance given the political reality in Australia, the United States and elsewhere – namely, that powerful forces on the right are determined to keep us barreling down the road to hell.





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PAGE 1/

DATE

WALA pang nakaalam kung kailan huhupa ang sumasabog na Bulkang Taal sa Batangas.

Habang tinitipa natin ito, mga Bro, mismong ang Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology ay naghihintay pa ng maaaring mas malalang kondisyon ng bulkan.

Ang Big Bang na katulad ng nangyari sa Bulkang Pinatubo noong 1991 ay wala pa umano.

Kapag may Big Bang, maaaring ideklara ang Alert Level 5.

Kung may pinagbakwit na mga mamamayan sa Alert Level 4, mas matindi ang pagbabakwit kung may Big Bang.

Mas maraming tao, mas malawak na lugar ang sasakupin ng pagbabakwit.

### NAIWANG KAWAWA

Dalawang malalaking uri ng mamamayan ang nasa lugar ng Bulkang Taal nang maganap ang pagsabog.

Binubuo ang isang uri ng mga turistang dayuhan at lokal.

Ang ikalawang uri ay mismong mga residente ng lalawigan ng Batangas.

Pare-parehong naghirap sa unang bugso ng pagsabog ang mga ito.

Pero ang mga dayuhan, makaraang matakasan ang lugar, kahit papaano ay nakabalik na sila sa normal na pamumuhay.

Ang mga residente ang talaga namang kawawa-awa ang kalagayan.

### MABILIS NA PAGPUTOK

Noon pang Marso 2019 nagparamdam ang bulkan ng abnormal na kalagayan.

Hindi naman nagbabago.

Pero kamakalawa, anak ng tokwa, napakabilis ng pagbabago nito.

Mula lang sa umagang Alert Level 1 at 2, naging Alert Level 3 dakong alas-4:00-5:00.

Pagdating ng alas-8:00, idineklara na ang Alert Level 4.

Sa parteng hapon, pre-emptive evacuation pa lang ang ginagawa ng mga mayor at gobernador.

Pero sa huling alert, karambola na para sa sapilitang pagbabakwit.

### SOBRANG MAPANGANIB Gabi, madilim.



NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

## MAGTULUNGAN, HUWAG MAGSAMANTALA

Walang kuryente ang maraming lugar.

Habang nasa ganitong kalagayan, pukpukan ang pagbuga ng bulkan ng abo, asupre, bato, putik at iba pang laman ng bulkan na bumabagsak sa mga residente at mga turista.

Kaya naman nagkarambola ang lahat.

Lahat gustong lumayo nang sabay-sabay at dito naganap ang carmaggeddon.

Bukod sa zero visibility dahil natatakpan na ang mga salamin ng sasakyan ng mga abo, madulas na rin ang mga daan sa basang mga abo na pakapal nang pakapal.

Naging delikado ang mga daan at nangamba ang lahat sa mga disgrasya.

At tama lang na lahat ay huminto na lamang at magpalipas ng gabi sa kalsada.

Ang mga mangingisda na tumakas mula sa Talisay, sakay ng isang jeepney, ay nahulog sa bangin at namatay lahat umano sa bayan ng Agoncillo.

### GUTOM, UHAW, PAGHIHIRAP

Lahat ng mga turista ay masasabing nakaligtas na sa pangamba.

Naiwang nasa gitna ng kagutuman, uhaw, sakit at paghihirap ang mga residente.

Kaya naman, nagdeklara na ang pamahalaang Batangas ng state of calamity para magamit nila ang kanilang calamity funds laban sa Krisis ng mga mamamayan at pamahalaang lokal.

Kasama na rin sa pagkilos si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte at ni Senador Bong Go na lumipad at umikot sa bulkan at paligid nito upang makita ang sakop ng pinsala ng sumabog na bulkan.

Naroroon na rin ang mga pambansang ahen-sya gaya ng Departments of Social Welfare and Development, Public Works and Highways, National Defense, Interior and Local Government, Environment and Natural Resources, Philippine Na-

tional Police, Metro Manila Development Authority, Phivolcs, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, Senado, Kamara at kasama nila ang mga lokal na pamahalaan na kumikilos para sa kaligtasan ng mga mamamayan.

### BUHAY PINAKAMAHALAGA

Pangunahin na concern ang kaligtasan ng tao kaya sila ang inuna sa lahat.

Dapat na walang gutom, pagkakasakit at iba pa sa mga biktima, kahit pa sa mga nasa evacuation center.

Pangalawa na lang ang mga hayop at iba pang buhay na alaga ng mga ito.

Pinangangambahan na ngang mamatay ang mga hayop na naiwan sa gutom at pagkalason mula sa asupre at iba pang kemikal na makakain at malalanghap ng mga ito.

Kung may hawak ang mga mamamayan na mga hayop, magandang ipahawak na lang ang mga ito sa DENR para sa tamang pangangalaga at hindi maging problema pa ng mga mamamayan sa gastos sa pagkain at pagkaili-nga.

### MAPAGSAMANTALA, IKULONG

Dapat magtulungan ang lahat at huwag mag-samantaia.

Ang mga nag-overprice ng mga face mask at mga batayang kailangan ng mga mamamayan sa panahon ng kalamidad ay dapat na maaresto, mademanda, makulong, mapagmulta at iba pa.

Hindi pupwedeng maghari ang mga asal-demonyo sa mga oras ng krisis o kalamidad.

oOo

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