

DATE : 01-17-20

DAY : Friday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



UNDERSECRETARY Benny Antiporda of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources turns over a rufous hornbill rescued in Cavite City to Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon, director of the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau. The bird was found covered in ash, fleeing and surviving the eruption of Taal Volcano. ANALY LABOR @tribunephL_ana



IBONG HORNBILL^{P2} ITINURN-OVER KAY USEC ANTIPORDA

ITINURN-OVER ni DENR Usec. at Lions Clubs International District 301-A2 First Vice District Governor Benny Antiporda kay Director Ricardo Calderon, ng Biodiversity Management Bureau ng Parks and Wildlife Research sa Quezon City ang na-rescue na rufous hornbill mula sa Cavite City.
DANNY QUERUBIN



IBONG HORNBILL ITINURN-OVER KAY USEC ANTIPORDA

ITINURNOVER ang isang endangered specie na ibon na hornbill kay DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda matapos itong ma-rescue ng isang residente sa Taal, kahapon.

Sa isang press conference, sinabi ni Usec. Antiporda na hinang-hina ang naturang ibong hornbill nang ma-rescue ng isang residente sa Taal, Batangas saka inalagaan at inilagay sa isang ligtas na lugar.

Inilagay na sa maayos na lugar sa Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center at may malaking kulungan ang naturang ibon.

"Dapat alagaan natin ang mga makukuha nating hayop sa paligid ng Taal at i-turn over sa pinakamatapit na DENR office" ani Antiporda.

Sa sandaling malaman umano ang kasarian ng ibon at nalamang lalaki, ito'y isusunod sa pangalan ni Usec. Benny.

Matatandaang na-trap ang mga hayop sa paligid ng Bulkang Taal nang magbuga ito ng abo at palikasin ang mga residente sa paligid nito.

SANTI CELARIO



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A1

01-17-20

DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

QC gov't found liable for Payatas 'trash-slide'

Court orders P6-M payment to families of victims in 2000 tragedy

By **Mariejo S. Ramos**
@MariejoRamosINQ

Nearly two decades since a "trash-slide" at the Payatas dump killed over 200 people, a court has found the Quezon City government liable for gross negligence and ordered it to pay over P6 million in damages to the victims' families.

"The improper and irresponsible dumping of waste thereby creating a mountain-like pile of garbage is the proximate cause of the violent death of the victims and loss of personal and real properties," ruled Judge Marilou Runes Tamang of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 97.

In her 133-page decision dated Oct. 30 last year that was released to the media only on Thursday, Tamang said that "[the] mountain-like trash in itself [was] a testament [to] the city government's gross negligence in the management and operation of the [dump]."

She ordered the city government to each pay the 56 heirs who filed the case P50,000 in temperate damages, P50,000 in moral damages and P10,000 in exemplary damages, for a total of over P6 million.

The Public Interest Law Center (PILC), which represented the victims' families, said it considered the ruling a land-



BURIED ALIVE — Over 200 residents living beside the Payatas dump were killed on July 10, 2000 after a 50-foot-high mountain of garbage collapsed. —**JOAN BONDOC**

mark legal case in torts and disaster liabilities, where a court asserted proximate cause to exact accountability.

Proximate cause is legally

sufficient to result in liability when an event, particularly an injury, was due to negligence or an intentional wrongful act.

"The decision, if read me-

ticulously and with laws such as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act deeply associated with this tragedy, helps shape a template for local governments in averting and managing disasters," the PILC said in a statement.

The Quezon City government has filed a motion for reconsideration although it has yet to issue a statement on the court decision.

On July 10, 2000, a 50-foot-high mountain of packed trash collapsed after a week of heavy rains caused by Typhoons "Dintang" and "Edeng."

The "garbage-slide" killed more than 200 persons and buried thousands of houses in Sitio Pangako which was home to at least 3,000 informal settlers.

The tragedy led to the passage of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 which permanently banned open ground dumps in the country.

After the law was passed, the Payatas dump was converted into a "controlled disposal facility" in 2004 until it was closed in 2010.

A separate and strictly regulated landfill was set up near the old dump the following year, but it was also ordered closed by the Environmental Management Bureau in December 2017 for a review of its environmental clearance certificate. **INQ**



METRO

QC gov't must pay for 'trash-slide' deaths

A Quezon City court has found the city government liable for the Payatas "trash slide" that killed more than 200 people on July 10, 2000. Saying the "mountain-like trash was a testament to the city government's gross negligence" in the dump's management and operation, Judge Marilou Runes Tamang ordered the payment of a total of P6 million in damages to the victims' families. —**STORY BY MARIEJO S. RAMOS**

A16



Mathay admin liable for Payatas landslide

Belmonte: City to compensate victims

By ROMINA CABRERA and JANVIC MATEO

A Quezon City regional trial court has found the Quezon City government liable for the 2000 Payatas dump landslide that left over 200 people dead.

In a 133-page decision dated Oct. 30, 2019 but released yesterday, acting Branch 97 Presiding Judge Marilou Runes-Tamang found the city government under then mayor Ismael

Mathay as civilly responsible for the deaths, which occurred when a wall of garbage collapsed and buried houses of informal settler families living near the dump.

She ordered the city government to pay the plaintiffs – legal heirs of 56 victims – P110,000 each in temperate, moral, and exemplary or cor-

rective damages, for a total of P6.1 million.

The judge also ordered the city government to pay the plaintiffs P100,000 in attorney's fees.

"The city would be happy to compensate the victims," Mayor Joy Belmonte said in a phone interview yesterday.

"It is not true that we will file a motion for reconsideration. There will be no appeal," she added.

Belmonte said they will source the money from the

funds of the office of the city mayor.

She said they would no longer pursue those found responsible for the incident, noting that Mathay died in 2013.

Tamang said "crushing proof" of the government's "gross negligence in the management and operation" of the dump is the mountain of trash formed through the improper and irresponsible dumping of waste.

She noted that prior to the landslide, the plaintiffs or their

parents were relocated from different parts of Quezon City to Lupang Pangako in Payatas in the 1990s by the city government under then mayor Brigido Simon.

However, a portion of the lot near Lupang Pangako was used as a dump by the city government. The "mountain of garbage" drew nearer to the relocation site and eventually collapsed on the relocated families' homes, Tamang said.

While the judge upheld the city government's liabilities,

she dismissed the case against Tofemi Realty Corp., Meteor Co. Inc., Ren Transport and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Tamang said the plaintiffs failed to prove that the MMDA exercised control, supervision and management over the dump.

She said Tofemi and Meteor were limited to owning the lot leased to the city government as a dump while Ren Transport is just one of the garbage haulers that utilized the dump.



QC gov't held liable for Payatas dumpsite tragedy

**BY ASHZEL HACHERO
and RAYMOND AFRICA**

AFTER nearly two decades, a Quezon City Regional Trial Court has found the Quezon City government liable for the Payatas dumpsite landslide tragedy that buried more than 300 residents in July 2000.

In a 133-page decision, Quezon City RTC Branch 97 Judge Marilou Runes-Tamang faulted the city government for the "improper and irresponsible dumping of waste" which led to the deaths of the victims.

Tamang ordered the payment of a total of P6 million to the legal heirs of 59 of the landslide victims,

with each getting compensation broken down as follows: P50,000 in temperate damages, P50,000 in moral damages and P10,000 in exemplary damages.

The city government was also directed to pay P100,000 in attorneys' fees.

Tamang refrained from awarding compensation for actual damages, pointing out that there was no evidence of the prior existence of the buried properties of the claimants.

The decision was promulgated on October 30, 2019 but was only released on Thursday, January 16.

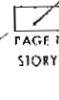
"The Court renders judgment declaring defendant Quezon City

government liable to the legal heirs of the deceased victims. The mountain-like trash in itself is a testament of the city government's negligence in the management and operation of the said dumpsite," part of the decision stated.

"The improper and irresponsible dumping of garbage thereby creating a mountain-like pile of wastes is the proximate cause of the violent death of the victims and the loss of personal and real properties," it added.

Proximate cause is defined in past Supreme Court jurisprudences as negligence that produces

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See QC GOV'T > Page B5



TITLE: QC gov't held liable for Payatas dumpsite

PAGE 2/2

tragedy

QC GOV'T

an event without which the event would not have occurred.

The QC court said that while the defendant was correct in its argument that the victims assumed the risk by refusing to be relocated to safer places, it was "not sufficient to relieve the city government of Quezon City of any liability."

The city government was headed at the time by former mayor Ismael Mathay Jr.

The court ruling stressed that the local government of Quezon City was "duty-bound to establish, maintain, operate, manage, supervise and control a waste disposal facility within its jurisdiction" but lamented that "the mere fact that they maintained a mountain-like pile of garbage within their jurisdiction is a crushing proof of its gross negligence."

"Indeed, allowing the heaps of garbage to rise to such immense height clearly demonstrates the city government's negligence. Moreover, endangering the lives and limbs of the people in Payatas unquestionably amounts to gross negligence," it ruled.

It likewise pointed out had the city government "exercised due care expected of them, they could not have allowed the garbage to rise to such unprecedented height as to resemble several Meralco posts arranged on top of each other or several storeys-high of a building."

In seeking court damages, the complainants alleged that a "huge and strong inferno-like garbage avalanche" buried more than 300 people alive in the morning

of July 10, 2000, the date of the fateful incident.

In the same ruling, the court cleared the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Tofemi Realty Corporation and Meteor Company, Inc., which owned the land used as the dumpsite; and Ren Transport, one of the garbage haulers in Payatas.

The MMDA was then chaired by former vice president and Makati City mayor Jejomar Binay.

The QC court said the complainants failed to prove by preponderance of evidence that MMDA exercised control, supervision and management of the Payatas open dumpsite.

"No evidence was presented that the MMDA had the authority or duty to minimize the adverse effects of dumping operations on people and communities near the dumpsite," it ruled.

As to Tofemi and Meteor Company, the court said it was clear that their role was limited to owning the lot and leasing the same to the city government to be used as a dumpsite and that merely allowing its lot to be used as dump site does not mean that it commanded, instigated, promoted, advised, countenanced or aided the commission of the incident.

"Likewise, no preponderant proof was presented that they participated in the joint management, supervision and control of the open dumpsite," it said.

Ren Transport, the court said, it was just one of the many haulers of garbage to the site and that fact did not necessarily mean that it enjoyed exclusive and uninterrupted use of the properties as alleged in the complaint.



NAKAUPO ang mga batang ito sa nakaparadang bangka habang tumutulong ang kanilang mga magulang sa paglilinis sa baybayin ng Gasangan sa Baseco, Tondo, Manila. Magmula nang isailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang Manila Bay noong nakaraang taon ay regular na nagsasagawa ng clean-up activities ang mga residente roon at ang mga volunteer group.

Kuha ni **AVITO C. DALAN/PNA**



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INITIATIVES
SERVICE

B3
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

01-17-20

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND WATER SUPPLY

PPP CENTER OKS SUPPORT FOR 3 LGUS' PROJECTS

The Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center announced its support for three more local government units for (LGUs) their solid waste management and water projects.

The PPP Center said in a statement the cities of Bislig, Iloilo and Ormoc would gain access to its Project Development and Monitoring Facility (PDMF).

The PDMF is a revolving fund that supports pre-feasibility studies, feasibility studies and other necessary preinvestment activities to develop bankable PPP projects.

The support extends to monitoring and assistance once the bidding is implemented.

The three local PPP projects approved for PDMF support on Jan. 9 were the Bislig City bulk water supply and septage project, the Iloilo City integrated solid waste management facility project, and the Ormoc City water supply system project.

The Bislig City bulk water supply and septage project aims to provide sustainable potable water supply and proper sanitation to the existing and

potential additional service areas of Bislig City Water District, the PPP Center said.

This includes the development of a new water source, construction of bulk water supply and septage facilities, and the operation and maintenance (O&M) component of the project.

Iloilo's solid waste management facility will provide solutions for trash segregation, recovery, recycling, treatment, remediation and possibly waste-to-energy.

It also intends to serve

adjoining municipalities like Oton, Pavia, Leganes, Santa Barbara and Dumangas, the PPP Center noted.

The Ormoc City water supply system project aims to provide the city's constituents with sustainable and all-day water supply using a piped distribution network with adequate treatment facility and household taps.

The project sourcing of raw water supply and the construction and O&M of a water supply facility, the PPP Center said.

—MIGUEL R. CAMUS INQ



Duterte creates task force on zero hunger

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has signed an executive order (EO) creating a special body that will address and eradicate hunger in the country.

In EO 101, the President ordered the creation of "an inter-agency task force on zero hunger," noting that "involuntary hunger, food security, undernutrition and child wasting, stunting and mortality continue to be serious concerns in the country."

"There is a need to carefully coordinate, rationalize, monitor and assess the efforts of concerned government agencies and instrumentalities to ensure a whole-of-government approach to eradicating hunger and achieving food security," the President in his order.

The task force shall be headed by the Cabinet secretary, with the secretaries of the Social Welfare and Development and Agriculture departments as vice chairmen.

Members of the task force include the secretaries of Agrarian Reform, Budget, Education, Environment, Health, Labor, Interior and Local Government, Trade, and Presidential Communications Office, as well as the heads of the National Economic and Development Authority and Commission on Higher Education.

The task force will formulate a national food policy and provide a roadmap for achieving zero hunger.

The group will also coordinate

the efforts of concerned government agencies and instrumentalities to ensure a whole-of-government approach to attaining zero hunger.

It will also monitor and evaluate, through the identification of key performance indicators, the government's progress in ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture.

The task force will also create technical working groups from among its member-agencies to address particular concerns.

The order, which was signed by the President on January 10, takes effect immediately.

Earlier, Cabinet Secretary Karlo

Nogralles noted that data showed 2.4 million families experienced moderate to extreme hunger in 2018, 13.7 million Filipino children were undernourished and that a fifth of Filipino children until the age of five were underweight.

"It is apparent that current efforts aren't enough and that, at this point, an inter-agency task force that can focus and align the different work being done to address the different aspects of hunger is needed," he said in an earlier statement.

The goal of the task force is to totally eradicate hunger by 2030, he added.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE



NOGRALES ITINALAGANG ANTI-HUNGER CZAR

NOGRALES ITINALAGANG ANTI-HUNGER CZAR

INATASAN ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte si Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles na pamunuan ang Task Force on Zero Hunger ng gobyerno, isang inisyatibong naglalayong suplin ang kagutuman at kamtin ang katiyakan sa pagkain ng bansa.

Inanunsyo ng Palasyo nitong Huwebes na nilagdaan na ng Pangulo ang Executive Order No. 101, na lumilikha sa Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger, na pangangasiwaan ng Cabinet Secretary at binubuo ng mga pinuno ng ahensya at opisina ng gobyemong may kinalaman sa pagpapatupad ng programa kontra gutom.

Ang mga ahensya na bumubuo sa Task Force ay kinabibilangan ng Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Education, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Health, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Science and Technology, Presidential Communications Operations Office, National Economic and Development Authority, at Commission on Higher Education.

"Ang pagbuo nitong Task Force ay sumasalamin sa panata ng gobyerno upang pagtuunan ng pansin ang kagutuman at kakulangan sa pagkain sa ating bansa," pahayag ni Nograles, na kasalukuyan ding pinamumunuan ang Task Force Yolanda at co-chair ng Inter-Ca-

binet Cluster Mechanism on Normalization for BARMM.

Bingyang punto ng opisyal ng Palasyo na "sa survey na isinagawa noong unang quarter ng 2019 ay napag-alamang 9.5% o tinatayang 2.3 milyong pamilya ang nakararanas ng gutom kallimitan isang beses sa loob ng nakalipas na tatlong buwan ng nasabing taon."

Ainsunod sa EO No. 101, ang Task Force ay mayroong mandato "na tiyaking ang mga patakaran o polisiya ng gobyerno, mga inisyatibo at proyekto sa pagkamit ng zero hunger ay dapat maayos, mabilis na tumugon at epektibo."

Ang kapangyarihan at tungkulin ng Task Force ay magbilangkas ng national food policy na magsisilbing roadmap ng gobyerno upang malutas ang kagutuman; makipag-ugnayan at maisaayos ang mga isinusulong na programa ng mga ahensya para mabiyak na malapatupad ang isang whole-of-government approach sa pagkamit ng zero hunger; at subaybayan at suriin ang mga isinusulong na hakbang ng gobyerno para lutasin ang gutom at makamtan ang seguridad sa pagkain.

Naatasan din ang task force na bumuo ng isang technical working group na kinabibilangan ng mga kinatawan mula sa mga kasaping ahensya upang matugunan ang mga problema pangtungkol sa gutom at maghanda at magsumite ng taunang ulat sa Pangulo hinggil sa kalagayan ng kagutuman, katiyakan sa pagkain, nutrisyon, at agricultural production ng bansa.

KRIS JOSE



DUTERTE BINUO ANG 'TASK FORCE ON ZERO HUNGER'

NILIKHA ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang isang inter-agency task force para tugunan ang problema sa kagutuman sa bansa, gayundin ang pagtatag ng National Food Policy para makamit ang target na "zero hunger" sa 2030.

Batay sa Executive Order No. 101 na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Duterte noong Enero 10, minamando nito ang pagbuo ng Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger na pamumunuan ng Cabinet Secretary kasama ang Social Welfare Secretary.

Kabilang sa mga miyembro ng task force ang mga kalihim ng Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, Budget and Management, Education, Environment and Natural Resources,

Health, Labor and Employment, Interior and Local Government, Trade and Industry, Science and Technology at Communications departments.

Kasama rin dito ang director general ng National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) at chairperson ng Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

Ilan sa mandato ng task force ang pagbuo ng National Food Policy na siyang mag-outline sa mga prayoridad at roadmap ng gobyerno sa pagkamit ng "zero hunger."

"The National Food Policy should include initiatives for ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture," ani Duterte.



'Zero Hunger' task force binuo ni Duterte

Bumuo si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ng isang inter-agency task force na tutugon sa problema sa kagutuman sa bansa para makamit ang target na "zero hunger" sa 2030.

Sa Executive Order No. 101 na nilagdaan ng Pangulo noong Enero 10, nakasaad ang pagtatag ng Task Force on Zero Hunger na pamumunuan ni Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles.

Kabilang sa mga miyembro ng task force ang mga kailhim ng Social Welfare, Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, Budget and Management,

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"The National Food Policy should include initiatives for ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture," ani Pangulong Duterte.

Binigyang punto ng Palasyo na "sa survey na isinagawa noong unang quarter ng 2019 ay napag-alamang 9.5% o tinatayang 2.3 milyong pamilya ang nakararanas ng gutom kalimitan isang beses sa loob ng nakalipas na tatlong buwan ng nasabing taon." (*Rudy Andaj*)



Nograles tinalagang anti-hunger czar

INATASAN ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte si Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles na pamunuan ang Task Force on Zero Hunger ng gobyerno, isang inisyatibong naglalayong supilin ang kagutuman at kamtin ang katiyakan sa pagkain ng bansa.

Inanunsiyo ng Palasyo nitong Huwebes na nilagdaan na ng Pangulo ang Executive Order No. 101, na lumilikha sa Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger, na pangangasiwaan ng cabinet secretary at binubuo ng mga pinuno ng ahensiya at opisina ng gobyernong may kinalaman sa pagpapatupad ng programa kontra gutom.

Ang mga ahensiya na bumubuo sa task force ay kinabibilangan ng Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Education, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Health, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Science and Technology,

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"Ang pagbuo nitong task force ay sumasalamin sa panata ng gobyerno upang pagtuunan ng pansin ang kagutuman at kakulangan sa pagkain sa ating bansa," pahayag ni Nograles, na kasalukuyan ding pinamumunuan ang Task Force Yolanda at co-chair ng Inter-Cabinet Cluster Mechanism on Normalization for BARMM.

Binigyang punto ng opisyal ng Palasyo na "sa survey na isinagawa noong unang quarter ng 2019 ay napag-alamang 9.5% o tinatayang 2.3 milyong pamilya ang nakararanas ng gutom kalimitan isang beses sa loob ng nakalipas na tatlong buwan ng nasa-bing taon."

"Ang patuloy na gutom, kapag hindi natugunan, ito ay hahantong sa kawalang nutrisyon, pagkakasakit at, sa kalaunan ay, kawalan ng silbi sa trabaho - na magiging sanhi ng negatibong epekto sa ekonomiya," paliwanag nito.



KALIHIM NATIN



Karlo Nograles

TWITTER: @CabSec_Karlo

Umaalburuto man ang Bulkang Taal, hindi kaila kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang iba pang mga pangangailangan ng bansa, lalong-lalo na ang paghihirap ng mga napag-iwanang bahagi ng lipunan.

Katunayan, nilagdaan nito ang Executive Order No. 101

EO 101 armas ng gobyerno para sa #goodbye gutom

na nagtatag sa Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger na layuning wakasan ang kagutuman sa bansa pagsapit sa taong 2030 at mapabilis ang pagtugon ng pamahalaan sa kakulangan ng pagkain.

Seryoso ang gobyernong ito na tumugon sa problema ng kagutuman sa bansa. Nitong Martes nga, inilabas ng Malacañang ang pagkakatalaga sa inyong lingkod para pangangasiwaan ang Task Force on Zero Hunger na inatasang pababain ang poverty at hunger rate ng bansa sa 25% decrease sa kada dalawa't kalahating taon hanggang taong 2030.

Makakatuwang natin

dito ang mga magiging na kawani't opisyal ng DA, DBM, DepED, DENR, DOH, DOLE, DILG, DTI, DOST, PCOO, NEDA, CHED at iba pang mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan.

Naniniwala ang ating Pangulo na kailangan nang gumawa ng mga agresibong hakbang para puksain ang kagutuman dahil hindi sapat ang mga nakasanayan nang kaparaanan para malutas ang problema.

Ang Task Force ay babalangkas ng national food policy upang pag-isahin sa iisang direksyon ang mga polisiyang nakatuon dito. Susugan din nito ang ating sama-samang pagtugon sa kahirapan

alinsunod sa 2017-2022 Philippine Development Plan, bilang pagtalima na rin sa direktiba ng pangulo na ibaba ang poverty incidence hanggang 14% sa loob ng kanyang panunungkulan.

Bilang tagatimon ng polisyang ito, mga programa tungo sa #goodbye gutom, tututukan natin ang malapitang pakikipag-ugnayan sa pagitan ng mga national government agencies at mga lokal na pamahalaan, pati na ang pakikipagtulungan sa iba't ibang stakeholders upang iisa ang direksyon ng mas malakas na aksyon tungo sa paglutas sa problema sa gutom at pagpapabilis ng pagtugon sa kakulangan ng

pagkain.

Kagaya ng iba pang mga mandatong iniatang sa ating balikat, isang malaking karangalang mapagkatiwalaan ng pangulo na paminuan ang task force na susupil sa kagutuman na kinakaharap ng bansa. Buong puso ko itong tinanggap at sisikapin magampanan ang tungkulin para sa kapakanan ng mahihirap nating mga kababayan.

Mabigat man ang tungkuling ito, aasahan ko ang pakikipagtulungan ng buong burokrasya sa paraan ng "whole of government approach" kasama ang mga sektor na siyang makakatuwang natin sa adhikang ito.



Duterte hits water firms Catholic Church anew

By Julie M. Aurelio
@JMAurelioINQ

President Duterte on Thursday again lambasted two water concessionaires and vowed to reveal the names of the state lawyers who allegedly crafted the “onerous” 1997 water concession deal that he wants replaced.

“The lawyers of government, everybody is trying to be minimalist, they are trying to explain their role as minimal. But I said, even if we renew the contract or not, the people should know (who they are),” the President said during the celebration of the Baptist Church’s 120th year in the country.

“I will reveal who they are so you can ask them, including Ayala and Pangilinan: Why did you do this to us? ...Give me an answer, or else, son of a bitch, I will shoot your balls!” Mr. Duterte said, referring to the top executives of water concessionaires Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services.

Earlier this month, the President said the government was crafting a new contract to replace the old agreement, and said he would nationalize the water distribution system and file charges of economic sabotage, economic plunder and syndicated estafa against the two firms should they refuse to accept it.

The government said the provisions preventing state interference in setting water rates, requiring government to compensate the water firms for losses and passing on corporate taxes to consumers were “onerous.”

The President has vowed not to pay a single cent to the water firms, who have since dropped the P10-billion compensation claims awarded them by a Singapore arbitration court.

Mr. Duterte said the two water firms are now having “sleepless nights” over the water mess and that “you could hardly hear a (whimper) out of them.”

The President also pointed

to Harry Roque, his former presidential spokesperson, who was sitting in the audience and said that Roque would be one of the lawyers that the water concessionaires would be facing in court once the charges were filed.

But Roque said he had “no idea” when asked if he would be taking on a new government post as mentioned by the President.

Mr. Duterte also blamed Maynilad and Manila Water for the sorry state of the polluted Manila Bay, saying it could not be improved because the two firms did not establish wastewater treatment facilities.

The President also hit the

Catholic Church, recalling how he cursed Pope Francis when the 2015 papal visit got him stuck in traffic.

Mr. Duterte, who had repeatedly accused the clergy of having molested him as a young boy, told his audience of Baptist church members that the way to “win the war” against the Catholic Church was to curse them.

“It’s good to bullshit the bishops. It might make you win. Take it from my experience,” the President said. “They’re no longer complaining even if I say ‘bullshit.’ All you have to say is ‘you son of a bitch,’ and you’ll win.” INQ



PPP OKs funding for 3 provincial water, waste projects

By **CZERIZA VALENCIA**

Three projects in the cities of Bislig, Iloilo and Ormoc have been granted funding for project preparation and transaction advisory services, the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center said yesterday.

Approved for funding support under the Project Development and Monitoring Facility (PDMF) last Jan. 9 are the Bislig City Bulk Water Supply and Septage Project, Iloilo

City Integrated Solid Waste Management (SWM) Facility Project, and the Ormoc City Water Supply System Project.

The PDMF support covers the conduct of feasibility studies, project structuring, preparation of tender documents, management of the bid process, and assistance until financial close.

The Bislig City Bulk Water Supply and Septage Project aims to provide sustainable potable water supply and proper sanitation to the exist-

ing and potential additional service areas of Bislig City Water District (BCWD).

This involves the development of a new water source, construction of bulk water supply and septage facilities, and the operation and maintenance (O&M) of the project.

Iloilo City envisions to have a sustainable SWM solution covering segregation, recovery, recycling, treatment, remediation, and possibly waste-to-energy for its constituents

through the Integrated SWM Facility Project.

This project also intends to cater further the adjoining municipalities of Oton, Pavia, Leganes, Sta. Barbara and Dumangas.

The Ormoc City Water Supply System Project, meanwhile, aims to provide the city's constituents with a sustainable water supply where people can have round-the-clock water access from a bulk water supply facility using a piped distribution network with

adequate treatment facility and household taps.

It involves sourcing of raw water supply and the construction and O&M of a water supply facility.

The PDMF is a revolving fund administered and managed by the PPP Center that supports pre-feasibility studies, feasibility studies, and other necessary pre-investment activities to help develop bankable PPP projects.

It also provides for effec-

tive monitoring of PPP project implementation.

Its use is governed by a board composed of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Finance (DOF) and PPP Center.

The facility is available for all national government agencies, government corporations, local implementing entities and state universities and colleges nationwide.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

FILE:

CASE 1/2

Special Report

(First of two parts)

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The water waiting game: Who's the one to blame?

Last year, people waited for water to drip from their faucets. This year, people are waiting yet again. But this time, they are waiting for something bigger, something that would affect the long-term supply in the metropolis.

President Duterte is nowhere near finished in his rampage against oligarchs—media, water, foreign, local—just as he has yet to finish his many plans and promises to the Filipino people.



Water shortage

In particular, the Chief Executive continues to lash out at Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. for the current onerous contracts that are allegedly disadvantageous to the consuming public.

Even if the two concessionaires have agreed to renegotiate and have the contracts—which date back to 1997—reviewed, there is no stopping the government in possibly prosecuting big names in business.

But really, has anyone traced who is to blame in this hulabaloo that continues to create uncertainties in the Philippine investment climate?

Probably the contracts in general, the concessionaires, and even the government.

Moreso, the lack of other alternative water sources that could have prevented the last water crisis which is technically the root of the mess.

But who is ready to accept and take the blame? Probably no one. And while many claim that a new set of contracts is needed, up to what extent will the concessionaires accept the government's take it or leave it offer?

No other source

The Manila Water crisis in March was due to lack of water simply because Angat Dam is on a decline and the country has no other alternative sources where it can actually get enough supply for the population.

In an interview with *The STAR*, National Water Resources Board (NWRB) executive director Seville David Jr. said it is about time to develop new sources amid demand that is increasing due to rapid population growth and urbanization.



Angat Dam

"The development of new sources has long been an issue and it has been very slow. We have to start working on that and I think that is what the government is addressing now," David said.

"In order to secure the current requirement in the next few years, both medium and long term, part of the strategy should be the development of new sources and that is something that cannot be done just as quick. It will take time," he said.

Metro Manila sources 96 percent of its supply from Angat Dam which has been receding over the last years, much evidently in 2019 after it hit record lows exacerbated by the El Nino episode.

Maynilad president and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez pointed out that there have been a lot of plans, but it is the implementation of the plan that has been lacking.

"The overdependence on Angat is still the main risk of Metro Manila and the government has not addressed this up to now," Fernandez told *The STAR* in a separate interview.

"Whether it's Kaliwa or Wawa, or the execution of Sumag, that is their ball game and we support whatever new water sources that can be developed as fast as we can and the most cost efficient way," he said.



Kaliwa Dam

The controversial P12.2 billion Kaliwa Dam appears to remain as the biggest saving grace of Metro Manila. Kaliwa Dam has been part of the masterplan for decades now, but this has yet to materialize anytime soon.



THE: The water waiting game: Who's the one to blame? PAGE: 2/2

DATE

While the mega dam recently inched closer to securing all the necessary permits, it would take a while before it becomes operational.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has targeted to finish Kaliwa by 2023 or in the next three years.

Further, MWSS said it has reoriented its priorities and adopted short-term, medium-term and long-term raw water security roadmap that will provide potable and sustainable water supply in the next five to 50 years with an increase of at least 1,518 million liters per day by 2022.

Being fasttracked under the new water security roadmap are the 150 MLD Putatan, 100 MLD Cardona, 188 MLD Sumag, 50 MLD Rizal Wellfield, 80 MLD Calawis Wawa, 100 MLD Putatan 3, and 250 MLD Lower Ipo.

Being eyed as medium-term water source projects from 2023 to 2027 are the 420 MLD Wawa Dam, 250 MLD East Bay, 350 MLD Bayabas Dam, 550 MLD Angat Norzagaray Phase 2, 250 MLD East Bay, 750 MLD Sierra Madre, and 1,800 MLD Kanan River Phase 1.

To complement the New Water Security Roadmap 2019 to 2022, MWSS said there is an urgent need to fasttrack the completion of Aqueduct 6 and Tunnel 4 which are expected to be operationalized by January 2020.

MWSS also expects to complete by June 2022, Aqueduct 7 and Tunnel 5 which are now on stream to provide another 1,600 MLD to flow toward La Mesa.

An off-take agreement between Manila Water and Prime Metroline Infrastructure Holdings Inc. has also been approved to pursue the development of a water supply source east of Metro Manila, the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project.

All these, however, are still being undertaken and are still quite far from completion.

For NWRB, David said while everyone is waiting for the full development of other sources, alternative measures should be put in place including fixing leaks in the system to help in securing additional supply.

"There are also deep wells that are being established and rehabilitated so we have somewhere to get our water in case of emergency. It may not fully address the situation, but it can help," David said.

"Then we have cloud seeding operations for Angat and the expansion in tapping Laguna Lake," he added.

As consumers wait for something tangible, what is it like in the years to come?

2020 scenario and beyond

Last year, Angat failed to reach its normal level of 212 meters and just settled at 201.5 meters, the lowest for the last 20 years, prompting NWRB to still cut allocation for Metro Manila and for irrigation.

The normal allocation is 46 cubic meter per second for Metro Manila and 40 CMS for irrigation. But with Angat's current level, NWRB decided to stick with 42 CMS which has been the reduced allocation for Metro Manila for the last four months.

As for irrigation in Bulacan and Pampanga, allocation has been raised to 20 CMS from 10 CMS.

"It might continue until next month because once you release the volume for irrigation you have to maintain that level, you cannot just give specific volume now and then reduce it the next month because the crops will be affected," David said.

Those areas that should be irrigated by this volume, we have to satisfy their need at least four month- requirement until such time they have harvested their crops," explained.

While the full requirement might still not be met, NWRB assured that what happened in March would not happen again this year.

"That is why we are trying to manage the supply now in order to prevent, or at least minimize the risk of a same situation that happened last year. That's what we are trying to avoid," David said.

David noted that the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said 2020 would be an enso-neutral year, where there will be no El Niño or La Niña.

"To simplify, it is a normal year, where normal rains will come, normal rainy season, and the volume of rains that we normally receive by May or June will be there. But just the same, we are preparing for any eventuality that it will be reduced," he said.

"Last year, we had an extended dry season. If this happens again, we have sufficient supply for the first half of the year at least. Based on our scenarios, we don't see that we will return to the 36 CMS allocation," David said.

The same was echoed by Fernandez, saying a crisis for 2020 is unlikely.

"Given that we are not starting at 212 meters, there will still be challenges but from my perspective, the entire system has become proactive," he said.

"There will be risks, but if you ask me about a crisis, I don't see a crisis this year. There will still be supply tightness, rotational interruptions, but it depends now on when rains will come and if we can successfully ramp up some of our mitigating measures," Fernandez added.

But the year 2021 and beyond is already a different picture until such time a complement source for Angat is made available.

After 2020, Fernandez said that the government's planned sources like Wawa and Calawis, which are all for Manila Water, should be up and running.

As for Maynilad, it is banking on the Putatan 3, non-revenue water reduction, and new mobile treatments to make the situation more manageable.

"We can never be complacent, it is still a tight situation until Putatan 3 is up," Fernandez said.

"Putatan 3 is so crucial for us and Metro Manila, we know Kaliwa will take a minimum five years who knows, so realistically and pragmatically, we need Putatan by hook or by crook because if we don't do something, we will face another crisis two or three years from now," he warned.

Maynilad's Putatan treatment plant in Muntinlupa is the first water treatment facility that taps into Laguna Lake as an alternative to Angat Dam and is the largest membrane-based water treatment plant in the Philippines and is also the first of its kind in the country to use large-scale microfiltration and reverse osmosis.

For the third Putatan plant, Maynilad will begin construction this month and which will take two years before completion. It will also have a 150 MLD capacity.

"As early as 2010, we already tapped Laguna Lake because we saw the over dependence in Angat plus we were growing in the south and Angat is too far for our expansion market so we saw Laguna Lake as a real, relevant and most realistic to implement to support our expansion," Fernandez said.

"Even before all this review, MVP (Manny V. Pangilinan) was already talking about Putatan 3, and that is the truth. As early as last year, we already had approval for Putatan 3. We executed our planning, our bidding, we have awarded that project and we are in the execution mode," he said.

The problem now is how the ongoing review of contracts will affect current projects. Will there be further delays that would most likely affect supply in the end?

(To be continued)

Villar marks 5th year building up Baseco with cleanup, tree planting

TO MARK the 5th anniversary of her various projects in Baseco Compound, which she intends to turn into a "model community," Senator Cynthia Villar recently led a clean-up activity in the area.

Since 2015, Villar has been returning to the congested Baseco in Gasangan, a coastal community along Manila Bay, to conduct monthly cleanup and tree-planting activities, and to check on the progress of the construction of toilets and status of the various livelihood projects she established for the residents.

Villar adopted this area of Gasangan in a bid to make the compound a model community rehabilitation project and site for urban agriculture and aquaculture.

Villar, chairperson of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, expressed her gratitude to individuals and groups who contributed to the success of the projects.

"Looking back, rehabilitating Baseco looked like a daunting task but your continued cooperation encouraged me to carry on. It's still a long way to go but as you can see, we are starting to reap the benefits of our initial steps," Villar said, addressing the volunteers from partner organizations gathered for the activity.

Through the help of the Bureau of Soils and Waste Management, Villar established urban gardens in the area, which have been the source of vegetables for residents' own consumption and livelihood.

Recycling projects were also initiated in the area provided by the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

Senator Cynthia Villar leads the cleaning of the coastal area of Manila Bay in Gasangan to mark the 5th anniversary of her projects in Baseco Compound, Tondo.

Mangroves were also planted in the area to serve as natural barriers that will protect the community in the event of storm surges.

Aquaculture was also introduced in the area with the help of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, which provided the training and distributed fish-

ing boats and tri-bikes to the residents.

At the beginning of the projects, Villar also took the initiative to pave the street and build a communal septic tank. She also sought the commitment of authorities for the regular collection of garbage to prevent solid waste accumulation in Manila Bay. **Macon Ramos-Araneta**





Cleanup drive taps Manila barangay heads

By Pat C. Santos

Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso urged barangay officials to instill in their constituents the habit of cleaning their surroundings to support his effort to showcase Manila as a clean and orderly city.

In a meeting with the city's barangay leaders, during which he distributed financial assistance from the Office of the President, the mayor said making a habit of cleanliness would set a good example for the youth.

"Good and efficient public service will be of no use if the people do not participate," Domagoso said. "It is important that you help the city government for the sake of the future generation. We may not see its effect, but our children will enjoy it."

"There is nothing wrong about being humble and talking to non-believers and critics. Let us entreat them to dispose of their trash in the proper bin for collection by the government. At least you tried. You exerted effort," he added.

The mayor told the barangay officials to consider themselves lucky for having the opportunity to be of service to others, specially the members of the very community where they belong.



Uncertainty looms in wake of Taal tantrums



SENATOR Go visits victims of Taal Volcano eruption in Tagaytay City.

AL PADILLA @tribunephil_al

As a result, this city by the ridge overlooking the iconic volcano and its lake within a lake, looks like a ghost town devoid of the hustle and bustle which characterized the area since the boom that started at the turn of the century

From page A1

an instant, everything that Tagaytay and Batangas have built over the years can be gone with the rumblings of what he called the 'small but terrible' Taal.

Uncertainty on whether the worst is yet to come has kept businesses here from opening, kept close as they are by the absence of power and the usual hordes of tourists, both local and foreign.

As a result, this city by the ridge overlooking the iconic volcano and its lake within a lake, looks like a ghost town devoid of the hustle and bustle which characterized the area since the boom that started at the turn of the century.

Malls have yet to open, fantasy rides along an adventure park remained close while the usual traffic on the main Aguinaldo highway is nowhere to be seen. What are left are curious onlookers filling viewing decks to get a glimpse of the volcano and its tantrums.

Meralco linemen, meanwhile, are kept busy spraying off ash from electric posts, making sure nothing gets in the way before they switch the power back on after turning them off Sunday at the height of Taal's ashfall-laden eruption.

"Tagaytay will recover in due time. Business will bounce back," says a trader who refused to be named. It may look like a ghost town now but definitely it will be back."

What concerns the businessman more than

the tourism industry in the city is the suffering of the people in several Batangas towns most heavily devastated by the eruption.

"*Mahihirapan silang maka* recover (They will have a hard time recovering). First off, we don't know how long Taal will keep on erupting. *Iba tong bulkan na'to. May iba't ibang phase yan.* (This volcano is different. It has different phases). It can even take months or years," he said.

Authorities are preparing for two extreme worst-case scenarios: One, where the eruption could take place over a few days and another where the eruption lasts for weeks.

In 1911, Taal erupted over a period of three days in January. In 1754, it was drawn out over a period of seven months.

Livelihood on hold

"Meantime, livelihood of these people, which are mostly agriculture and tourist-related, will be put on hold. For how long, we don't know. Add to that plans to extend the permanent danger zone to 14 kilometers. That will surely cover the outlying towns of Agoncillo, Lemery, Taal and Tanauan, among others," the trader explained.

The man may not have said it, but it has been that way since time immemorial. People from outlying towns, evacuate everytime Taal is on a tantrum, return and pray that the next one would still be far off.

A study by an environment non-government organization, Pusod, Inc., found as early as 2011

that the observation still stands to this day.

What's obvious is that barangays at the foot of the volcano are greeted almost all the time by volcanic serenity – and suddenly by unannounced eruptions, like on 33 previous occasions in the volcano's history. Still, in disaster-prone Philippines, integrated disaster-response measures are not automatic, albeit are almost absent, to people living beside a permanent danger zone, like a volcano's periphery.

Heavy damage

The damage and losses due to the Taal volcano eruption remain at P577.39M, as reported area of 2,772 hectares and 1,967 animal head undergo further validation by the Department of Agriculture (DA) Region IV-A office.

In an effort to assuage the feelings of the evacuees, mostly from the outlying towns of Batangas, Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go, along with Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, paid a visit Thursday to the Department of Health Treatment and Rehabilitation Center at Barangay Kaybagal south here.

The senator said the President is very concerned about the safety and well-being of those affected thus he directed various government agencies to see to it that they contribute in uplifting the situation of the affected families.

The support coming from the national government according to Go will be directly coursed through the respective local government units.

"We brought food, medicine and other necessities to the victims and the LGU will be tapped in the distribution of these since they know their respective territories," Go said.

The President, Go said, has directed the DPWH, DENR, DoH and the Department of Agriculture to do their share in helping the affected areas.

The DPWH was ordered to clear all roads of ash and repair damaged roads and other establishments.

The DA was tasked to help farmers recuperate from their damaged crops, the DENR for the environmental concern and DoH for the health condition of the affected residents.

Traders warned

Meanwhile, Go warned traders who are taking advantage of the situation to refrain from hiking prices of their goods.

"To the traders, please don't take advantage of the situation. Let's help our fellowmen, don't raise prices of your goods," said Go as he issued a stern warning that those who would be caught violating the law will be dealt with accordingly.

According to Phivolcs, Alert Level 4 remains in effect over Taal Volcano as new fissures and cracks were seen in some areas of Batangas.

With Maria Romero and Alvin Murcia
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Uncertainty looms in wake of Taal tantrums

SPECIAL REPORT

By Manny Angeles
@tribunephil_mba

TAGAYTAY CITY — The scar left behind by the Taal eruption on the tourism industry of this upland city

is nothing compared to the devastation wrought on the Batangas lowlands by one of the world's smallest but deadliest volcanoes.

This, according to a businessman here, is the assessment of his peers, who saw for themselves, how in

Turn to page A2



PEZA assures ecozones' safety for locators and employees

By BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT

Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) Director General Charito B. Plaza yesterday said that its economic zones are located away from disaster-prone areas and are compliant with the geo-hazard laws.

"We assure our industry-locators and investors are strict in the enforcement of the geo-hazard laws and the environmental clearance certificate compliance by the ecozone developers, factories, utilities and facilities construction applicants," said Plaza.

Plaza issued this statement amid threats of another eruption of Taal Volcano, which may affect more regions in the Philippines including NCR and Region 4A.

Plaza cited the Lima Technology Center and the First Philippine Industrial Park, both located in Batangas, the province where Taal Volcano is part of, reported no damage, or major disruption to operations and structures aside from the ashfall.

"Locators now have to craft their busi-

ness continuity plans that should outline how they plan to do business in the face of the volcano's ongoing activity," she said.

"Moreover, PEZA management and concerned zone managers in Luzon are coordinating accordingly with locator companies about the condition of affected workers who reside in affected areas of the Taal volcanic activities," said Plaza.

Plaza assured investors that business sentiment in the Southern Tagalog region will remain positive on developers' compliance to government requirements for calamity safety, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-issued environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

"One of the requisites for proclamation of an economic zone is the ECC that is issued by the Environmental Management Bureau of DENR. Before DENR issues such ECC, the EMB requires environmental impact statement for the land development," Plaza said.

Likewise, PEZA is also doing its own plans to ensure the safety of all of its eco-

zones. One of which is the ecozone, urban, and metropolitan development and master planning of all its ecozones starting with the public zones in Mactan, Cavite, Baguio, and Angeles, Pampanga.

According to March 2019 data, PEZA has a registered total of 60 economic zones, of which, 59 are privately developed and one, the Cavite Economic Zone, is government owned and developed.

Meanwhile, the private ecozones in Region IV comprise a total of 3,921.1175 hectares composed of different types of ecozones namely: Agro-industrial, IT Center, IT Park, Manufacturing Special Economic Zone, Medical Tourism, and Tourism Ecozone.

PEZA has inked an agreement with the UP School of Urban and Regional Planning (UP-SURP) to re-masterplan and redesign its four public ecozones. She stated that the public zones will serve "as the models of PEZA's new concept in recreating the once purely factories/industry parks into building eco-towns and eco-cities, with industrial, commercial, and residential areas."



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TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE



BIGLANG napayakap ang isang matandang evacuee kay Pasay City Host Lions Club President Lydia Bueno makaraang abutan ito ng bath towel, hygiene kits, face mask, pagkain at iba pa ng mga miyembro ng naturang club na nakilala sa Oplan Taal Medical Missions ng Lions Clubs International District 301-A2 Region 1, sa isa sa mga evacuation center sa Tagaytay City.



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HANGGANG kailan matatapos ang paghihirap ng mga biktima ng pagputok ng Bulkang Taal? Ang totoo, walang nakaaalam kundi ang Diyos lamang.

Ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, wala pa talagang nakatitiyak kung magkakaroon pa ng Big Bang o wala na.

Pero may palatandaan ng delikadong pagputok. Namamaga ang bunganga ng bulkan at tila may gustong lalabas na magma o mainit o nagbabagang laman ng bulkan.

Naririyang din ang mga lindol na palatandaan ng pagiging buhay na buhay ng bulkan at maaaring karugtong ito ng gustong lumabas na magma.

Nakatatakot na ngarin ang mga bitak ng lupa na kilo-kilometro ang haba habang may mga lumulubog at tumataas na lupa sa iba't ibang lugar.

TAO ANG PINAKAMAHALAGA

Siyempre pa, mga tao ang pinakamahaling sa lahat ng usapin sa pagputok ng bulkan.

Kailangan silang ilikas at manatili sa mga lugar na ligtas sa anomang panganib.

At magandang balita na halos walang namatay sa kasagsagan ng pagputok ng bulkan hanggang ngayon.

Minalas lang ang mga evacuee na sakay ng isang jeepney na sa kanilang pagtakas sa ngitngit ng bulkan sa dilim ng gabí ay nahulog sa bangin sa bayan ng Agoncillo.

Hanggang makakayan, wala na sanang mamatay pa.

Natural ang mga pagkakasakit at sana'y magamot at gagaling sila sa kamay ng mga doktor.

GIYERA VS GUTOM

Ang gutom ang pangunahing problema sa matagalang pagbabakwit.

Lalo na sa parte ng mga tumakas sa panganib nang walang dala ni anoman kundi ang kanilang mga sarili at saplot lamang.

Pero higit lalo sa mga evacuee na hindi na talagang papayagang babalik at maninirahan pa sa dati nilang lugar.

'Yun bang === magiging sakop ng permanent danger zone.

Kung papayagan



TAO ANG PINAKAMAHALAGA, KORAPSYON LABANAN

man silang babalik, 'yan ay para kunin lang nila ang mga mahahalaga sa kanila na ari-arian at pagkatapos nito ay maghintay na lamang sila ng mga bago nilang pamayanan at tirahan.

REHABILITASYON

Tiyak na magkakaroon ng mga rehabilitasyong programa sa lahat ng naapektuhan.

Ang mga hindi papayagang babalik pa sa kanilang mga lugar ay magkakaroon ng mga tirahan sa mga relocation site.

Kasama sa mga magiging relocatee ang malalayo sa danger zones ngunit naging danger zone na rin ang kanilang lugar dahil sa paglitaw ng mga bitak ng lupa.

Siyempre pa, magkakaroon ng mga pag-empleyo sa mga biktima mismo sa pagtatayo ng mga housing project at paggawa ng mga bago at nasirang imprastruktura ng pamahalaan.

Naririyang din ang pagtanggap ng mga batang mag-aaral nang hindi kailangan ang mga papeles.

Magkakaroon din ng pagpapalakas ng loob sa mga residente na nawalan ng ganang mabuhay o maaaring masiraan sa pag-iisip.

PONDONG BAYAN

Maraming buwan at taon ang kakailanganin para sa rehabilitasyon o pagpapanibagong-buhay at maraming pondong publiko ang kailangan.

Sa relokasyon lamang, tiyak na bilyon-bilyong piso ang kailangan ng mga biktima lalo na sa pagtatayo ng mga bahay, kalsada, eskwela at iba pang pangangailangan nila.

Naririyang din ang pamimigay ng mga puhunan para sa hanapbuhay at training ng mga ito.

Maaaring may pantang at may mga grant o basta bigay na walang bayaran.

At tiyak na magbubuhos ng salapi sa rehabilitasyon ang pamahalaan at pribadong mga tao at kompanya at maaaring may sasali ring mga dayuhan.

KORAPSYON AT PANDARAMBONG

Tiyak na may nag-iisip na kung paano ngangatngat sa mga pondo ng rehabilitasyon.

Una, may gustong ngangatngat sa pondong pambili ng mga lupa para sa relokasyon.

Maaaring kasama sila ng mga may-ari ng lupa para sa overpricing ng lupa.

Ikalawa, tiyak ding magkakaroon ng mga taong nais pagkakitaan ang mga proyekto na housing, tubig at kalsada. Ang overpricing ng mga materyales at substandard na materyales at paggawa ang pupwede nilang pagkakitaan.

Maaaring mga opisyal mismo ng pamahalaan, mga kontraktor at ganid na mamamayan ang masasangkot dito.

Maaaring ang mga pondo mismo ang sasalakayin ng mga anak ng putakteng ito.

Maalala ba ninyo ang bilyon-bilyong piso na donasyon ng mga dayuhan at pinakawalan ng Aquino administration noong naganap ang Yolanda tragedy na pumatay na ng nasa 8,000 katao.

Maaaring maullit ito.

BITAYIN AGAD SILA?

Walang kapatawaran ang panunuwitik, pagnanakaw, korapsyon at pandarambong sa panahon ng kalamidad.

Kung may mahuhuli sa ganitong mga gawain, ayos lang bang tokhangin na lang sila?

Kapag may nahuli ang mga mamamayan, ano ba ang posible nilang gawin?

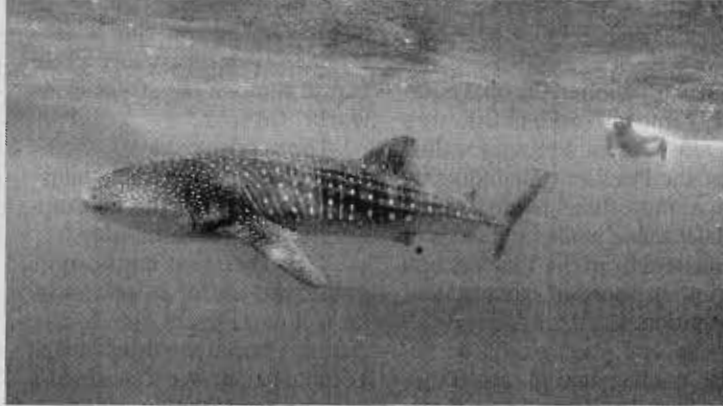
At kung may nahuli ang mga awtoridad, ano rin ba ang gagawin ng mga ito?

Kung lumaban ang inaaarresto, ano ang gagawin, lalo na kung buhay ng mamamayan o otoridad ang nakataya?

Anomang reaksiyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 0922340-3333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.



NOT ECOTOURISM



LILA ATTRACTION The presence of whale sharks in the waters off Lila, Bohol, has been drawing tourists to the town.

ENVIRONMENT ADVOCATES SLAM WHALE FEEDING IN BOHOL TOWN

TAGBILARAN CITY—Fake ecotourism.

That was how an environment protection advocate called the operation of the Taug Whale Shark Watching and Snorkelling in Lila, a coastal town in Bohol province.

"This is just taking cash. Nothing goes back to the animals. They are only taking advantage of the animals and not looking out for their welfare," said Jesse Vera Acebes of the nonprofit group Balyena.org-Balyena at Lumba sa Pilipinas.

Since 2009, the group has been conducting research on whales and dolphins in the country.

Acebes called the whale feeding in Lila a "tragedy."

"This is not Bohol's pride. This is abuse. What a shame," said Acebes, who had occasional close encounters with whale sharks during free diving.

Tourist drawer

"We periodically see these gentle giants pass by Jagna and other towns along the coast. Now you are baiting and peddling them to tourists. What a

shame on your part," he said.

The presence of whale sharks in the waters off Lila has enticed tourists to visit the town to interact with these "gentle giants." Local and foreign tourists pay from P500 to P1,000 each for whale watching and feeding.

But Philip Quiño, one of the operators of the Taug Whale Shark Watching and Snorkelling, clarified that the activity in Taug was only for whale watching and snorkelling, not feeding.

Untold dangers

Bohol Gov. Arthur Yap said whale sharks "need not be fed to stay alive as it will affect their life habits and natural order."

"By feeding them, we are effectively keeping them captive. Worst, we are disabling their ability to survive in the wild," Yap said. "We are training them to be dependent on manual feeding and will expose them to untold dangers by conditioning them to approach boats and humans."

He asked the Lila government and residents "to take a step back and reflect on these fundamental issues that define our very humanity." —LEO UDTOHAN INQ



BW FILE PHOTO



Gov't contractual workers given up to P3,000 gratuity

PRESIDENT Rodrigo R. Duterte has authorized gratuities for government employees hired under job-order (JO) and contract-of-service (COS) work arrangements for 2019.

Administrative Order (AO) No. 20, dated Jan. 10, was issued in recognition of JO and COS workers, who are not entitled to benefits of regular government employee.

"Granting a year-end Gratuity Pay to JO and COS workers is a well-deserved recognition of their hard work," the AO read in part.

The grant of the P3,000 gratuity will cover workers, who have rendered at least four months of satisfactory performance and whose contracts are still in effect.

Those who rendered at least three months but less than four

months will receive gratuity pay not exceeding P2,000.

Those whose length of service of at least two months, but less than three, will receive up to P1,500; those with tenures less than two months will get up to P1,000.

The AO provides for funding from the maintenance and other operating expense (MOOE) allotment of national government agencies and state univer-

sities and colleges; but noted that additional funding may be requested from the Department of Budget and Management.

Meanwhile, government-owned and -controlled corporations will source their funding from operating budgets.

The AO also encouraged local government units to grant gratuities to JO and COS workers.

— **Charmaine A. Tadalán**



One-time gratuity pay granted to contractuales

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has granted government job-order (JO) and contractual workers a one-time gratuity pay, ranging from P1,000 to P3,000.

Administrative Order 20 provides a P3,000-gratuity pay to contractual workers with at least four months of service as of Dec. 15, 2019 and whose contracts are still effective to date.

Workers with three months or longer service will get P2,000; those with two months or more but less than three months, P1,500; and those less than two months, P1,000.

The order covers workers whose services are engaged through job orders, contracts of service or other similar schemes by national government agencies; state universities and colleges; government-owned or -controlled corporations; and local water districts.

The order also encouraged local government units to grant gratuity pay to their contractual workers.

Several government agencies have allowed labor contractualization, since the Civil Service Commission has recognized such practice.

Workers under job orders and contracts of service, however, do not enjoy benefits accorded to regular employees, like the mid-year and year-end bonuses, performance based bonus, and personnel economic relief allowance, since they have no employee-employer relations with the government.

"The state affirms labor as a primary and social-economic force and shall promote the welfare of workers," the order read.

"Granting a year-end gratuity pay to JO and COS (contract of service) workers is a well-deserved recognition of their hard work," it added.

The President signed the order on January 10 and it takes effect immediately.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE



TITLE:

PAGE 1/

01-17-20

DATE

Duterte grants gratuity pay to JO, contractual workers in government

By SAMUEL P. MEDENILLA

✉ @sam_medenilla

JOB orders (JO) and contract of service (COS) workers with consistent satisfactory performance in the government last year will be getting a gratuity pay.

This after President Duterte issued on Thursday Administrative Order 20, granting qualified workers not exceeding P3,000 for those employed for at least four months.

For those, who rendered shorter service, they will be entitled to a one-time gratuity pay ranging from P1,000 to P2,000 depending on the period of service.

The issuance will cover workers,

whose services are engaged through JO and COS by national government agencies, state universities and colleges, government-owned and -controlled corporations and local water districts.

The AO also allowed the said government offices to tap their savings to fund the payment of the said gratuity pay.

President Duterte said the Department of Budget and Management will release the corresponding Special Allotment Release Order and Notice of Cash Allocation upon his approval.

It also noted that LGUs are encouraged to adopt in their respective offices the grant of gratuity pay to

workers whose services are engaged through JOs and COS, utilizing appropriate and available funding sources from their respective local government funds.

President Duterte said his approval of the AO aims to provide "well-deserved recognition" to hard working JO and COS.

"These workers are paid salaries/wages equivalent to the daily salaries/wages of comparable positions in government and a premium of up to 20 percent of such salary/wage. However they do not enjoy benefits accorded to government employees," Duterte said.

AO 20 took effect on January 10, 2020.



One-time 'gratuity pay' sa mga nasa job, con- tractual nilagdaan na

NILAGDAAN na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagbibigay ng one-time 'gratuity pay' sa mga nasa job order at contractual services sa gobyerno.

Nakasaad sa Administrative Order 20 na makatatanggap ng hindi bababa sa P3,000 ang mga naka-job order at contractual service na nakapagserbisyo sa gobyerno ng hindi bababa sa apat na buwan at nakapagsimulang magtrabaho ng December 15, 2019 hanggang sa kasalukuyan.

"A gratuity pay of not exceeding PHP2,000 will be given to job order and contractual government workers who have rendered "three months or more but less than four months"; not exceeding PHP1,500 for workers who have rendered "two months or more but less than three months"; and not exceeding PHP1,000 for workers who rendered "less than two months," ayon sa AO.

Ang pondo para sa gratuity pay, ayon sa nasabing kautusan, ay kukunin sa *maintenance and other operating expenses* ng tanggapan ng pamahalaan.

Ang naturang hakbang ay pagkilala sa dedikasyon at serbisyo ng mga naka-job order at contractual service sa gobyerno.

Sa nasabing kautusan, kinikilala ng Pangulo na "the State affirms labor as a primary economic force and promotes the welfare of workers."

KRIS JOSE