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DAY : Monday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



## DENR cites gains in bay cleanup

Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta on Sunday sounded bowled over by the transformation of a cleaned-up Manila Bay. The song "What A Wonderful World" now best describes the once heavily polluted bay, Peralta said. Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, however, said the level of fecal coliform made the bay still unsafe for swimming. He had earlier promised it would be fit for swimming by the end of 2019. —STORY BY JHESSET O. ENANO **A8**

By **Jhesset O. Enano**  
@jhessetEnanoINQ

The waters of Manila Bay, world-famous for its sunset, have shown signs of improvement a year after the environment department and other government agencies launched a drive to clean up what has been called a "gigantic septic tank."

Officials touted Baseco Compound, a huge slum by the bay in Tondo, Manila, as one of the biggest triumphs of efforts at restoring the old glory of the bay, where Commodore George Dewey destroyed the Spanish Pacific Squadron during the Spanish-American War.

Not too long ago, the water at the shoreline of Baseco was filled with trash—from plastic food packaging and sachets to used diapers.

Now, the sand underneath the water is finally visible, after months of consistent cleanup activities led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and village officials.

### High court mandamus

Saying he was "impressed" by the agencies' efforts, Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta said this was the first time he had seen the continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court in 2008 actually being implemented in the bay.

Acting on a petition filed in 1999 by residents of the bay—University of the Philippines law students and colleagues of environment lawyer Tony Oposa, the high court ordered 13 agencies to clean up and protect the body of water.

The 1,994-square-kilometer bay has a coastline of 190 km and is bounded by Metro Manila and the provinces of Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga and Bataan.

But much remains to be done in cleaning up the bay, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said on Sunday, the first anniversary of the "Battle for Manila Bay" cleanup campaign.

### A YEAR AFTER CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

## DENR CITES GAINS IN MANILA BAY CLEANUP



Roy Cimatu —MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

Levels of fecal coliform, or bacteria from human and animal feces, are still at thousands to millions most probable number per 100 milliliter (mpn/100 ml), although this was a significant decrease compared to previous levels that reached billions.

### Drop in fecal coliform levels

Before the rehabilitation program, the DENR said it aimed to reduce the fecal coliform level of the bay from 330 million mpn/100 ml to a more acceptable 270 mpn/100 ml by end of 2019.

The safe level for water quality is pegged at 100 mpn/100 ml.

While Baseco Beach has shown huge improvement visually, environment officials said it was still not safe to swim in.

While levels of coliform from three monitoring stations in Baseco still fluctuate, it still had high levels, with the lowest reaching around 30,000 mpn/100 ml, said Jacqueline Caanacan, executive director of DENR National Capital Region.

But children found no problem skinny dipping into its murky brown waters on Sunday, paying no attention to the stink still emanating from the bay.

"They will feel bad when you tell them off," said Diana Espinosa, chair of Baseco Compound. "When it was still dirty, they were already swimming there. Now that it's clean, how will we tell them not to do so?"

While Cimatu had promised that Manila Bay would

be swimmable by end of 2019, he said the timeline had been pushed back due to delays in constructing flood control projects in the baywalk area.

### Treatment plants

Officials are now pinning their hopes on a new solar-powered sewerage treatment plant on Roxas Boulevard—a project of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

With six main treatment tanks, the plant is expected to treat 500,000 liters of wastewater daily.

The untreated water will come from three drainage outfalls, namely Padre Faura, Rajah Soliman and the Manila Yacht Club. Once flowing straight to the bay, the outfalls will be diverted by a 1.5-km pipe stretching from the US Embassy to the yacht club.

The plant is expected to be fully operational by March.

Yet even without the treatment plant, Cimatu said recent data from the Environmental Management Bureau already showed that coliform levels from these outfalls had "drastically decreased."

For instance, the count at Padre Faura outfall is now down to 920,000 mpn/100 ml, from its prerehabilitation level of 7.21 million mpn/100 ml.

At the Rajah Soliman drainage, levels went down from 35 million mpn/100 ml to 11 million mpn/100 ml.

Cimatu said some 40,000 informal settler families within the Manila Bay region would be relocated within the year.

Relocation of slums is part of the second phase of the rehabilitation plan for Manila Bay.

"Before, no one really believed that Manila Bay can be cleaned," Peralta said. "My wife suggested that the theme song of Baseco was 'Impossible Dream' because it is impossible to clean."

"But now, it's 'What A Wonderful World,'" the chief magistrate said, referring to Baseco's transformation. **INQ**



*Battle  
for Manila  
Bay  
continues*

(Story on Page 17)

# Battle for Manila Bay continues

By REY GALUPO

The campaign to clean up and restore the marine ecosystem of Manila Bay was echoed in a program in Tondo yesterday amid the backdrop of President Duterte's vocal stance against reclaiming 100 square kilometers of the bay.

Sen. Cynthia Villar and Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu led the program at Baseco Compound in Tondo for the second "Battle for Manila Bay" – a pro-environment campaign launched last year.

Villar lauded the Manila city government for its agreement with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and Maynilad to enhance the "Kubeta Ko" project, which is aimed at building over 400 toilets for bay area residents at Parola Compound.

This project, along with a joint MWSS and Maynilad investment in a sewerage treatment plant, is expected to reduce pollution in the bay.

Since last year, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has removed over 2,000 truckloads of trash, mud and slime from the bay.

MMDA spokesperson Celine Pinalago said that despite these efforts, restoring the old beauty of Manila Bay is unlikely unless throwing garbage into the bay is totally stopped.

Meanwhile, Manila mayor-turned-Butil party-list Rep. Lito Atienza expressed full support for the President's stance against reclaiming Manila Bay, saying only the "oligarchs" would benefit from it.

"We should be revitalizing Manila Bay's ecosystems, not flattening them with more reclamation projects," Atienza said. – With Ghio Ong, Delon Porcalla



DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu (6th from right), chair of the Manila Bay Inter-Agency Task Force (MBIATF), Senator Cynthia Villar (6th from left), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chairman Danilo Lim (4th from right), Supreme Court Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta (5th from right), US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim (5th from left), and other government officials switch on the Manila Bay sewage treatment plant during the first year anniversary of the Manila Bay cleanup and rehabilitation project dubbed as the 'Battle for the Manila Bay' on Sunday. (Ali Vicoy)

## Manila Bay sewage plant inaugurated

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu led on Sunday the inauguration of a sewage interceptor and treatment plant located in front of the Manila Yacht Club in celebration of the first year anniversary of the Manila Bay's intensive cleanup and rehabilitation.

"The facility, which is capable of treating 500,000 liters of wastewater per day, will ensure that no untreated wastewater from the drainage outfalls flows into the bay," Cimatu said.

Citing the most recent data from the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Cimatu said coliform levels from major Manila Bay outfalls have "drastically decreased."

He said the fecal coliform count at the Padre Faura outfall is now down to 920,000 most probable number per 100 milliliter (mpn/100ml) from its pre-rehab record of 7.21 million

mpn/100ml.

From 35 million mpn/100ml recorded before the rehabilitation began, Cimatu said the coliform level at the Raja Soliman/Remedios drainage outfall across Aristocrat Restaurant went down to 11 million mpn/100ml.

The coliform level at the Manila Yacht Club outfall is now 54 million mpn/100ml from a high of 110 million mpn/100ml, the DENR chief noted.

"Even before the construction of this treatment plant, the water quality in the bay is slowly improving," Cimatu pointed out. "This we credit to the concerted efforts and cooperation of all stakeholders including our estero rangers who are in-charge of the esterros that drain into the Manila Bay."

He also said that more sewage treatment plants will be built to catch the untreatable water flowing into the Manila Bay. **(Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz)**



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*Zero waste to nature Inilunsad ng malalaking kompanya*

# PBB BAGONG KAKAMPI NG DENR

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DENR SEC. CIMATU



LIBO-LIBONG katao mula sa iba't ibang grupo ang nakilsa sa unang taong anibersaryo ng Battle for Manila Bay sa pangunguna ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu (inset, kaliwa) kung saan ipinakilala ni Usec. Benny Antiporda (Inset, taas) ang bagong super hero na kalaban ng mga pasaway at mahilig magkalat ng basura na si PBB o Pinas the Basura Buster. **CRISMON HERAMIS**

**\* Battle for Manila Bay 1 taon na  
\* Baseco Beach maaari  
nang paliguan-Cimatu**







# Zero waste to nature inilunsad ng malalaking kompanya PBB BAGONG KAKAMPI NG DENR

IPINAKILALA ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda ang bagong kakampi ng ahensya para sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay sa pagdiriwang ng ika-1 taong anibersaryo ng Battle for Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Antiporda, sorpresa nila kay DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ang pagkakaroon na tinawag nilang Pinas the Basura Buster kung saan makatutuwang ito sa kanilang programa.

Kaugnay nito, muli namang nanawagan si Antiporda sa bawat Filipino na samahan ang gobyerno sa kanilang programa sa paglilinis sa Manila Bay.

Aniya, kahit ilang opisyal, senador o judge pa ang magdaan, babalik at babalik pa rin

ang basura sa pinanggalingan kung hindi sila lutulungan.

Binigyan-din pa ni Antiporda na hindi ang plastik mula sa mga produkto ang malaking kalaban ng Battle for Manila kundi ang mga plastik na tao na mahirap disiplinahin kaya manumi ang kapaligiran.

Semantala, nagsama-sama at nagkaisa ang ilang magkakalabang kompanya at Industriya upang makamit ang layunin na mapanatiling malinis ang Manila Bay.

ito ay matapos ilunsad ng Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability ang "zero waste to nature".

Ayon sa PARMS, nakatutok sila sa mga basura na maaari pang magamit o ma-recycle at sa pamamagitan ng programang ito ay lumaki ang income potential.

Bukod dito, madaragdagan din umano ang demand sa recycling at mula sa mga basura ay makapagbibigay ng trabaho sa sector ng recycling.

Ayon pa sa PARMS, ang programang ito, ilalagay sa merkado ang mga bagay na may halaga at magkaroon ng increase sa demand ng recycled materials at palaganapin ang investment sa recycling industry.

## BATTLE FOR MANILA BAY 1 TAON NA

MULING nagsama-sama ang ilang ahensya ng gobyerno, iba't ibang organisasyon, sektor, academic institutions sa Baseco Beach upang magtulong-tulong para sa patuloy na paglilinis at rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Taong 2019 nang simulan ang proyekto ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa direktiba na rin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte para sa isang layunin na muling maging malinis ang Manila Bay na naging mata-gumpay naman makalipas ang isang taon.

Dahil sa pagtutulungan ng mamamayan para masolusyunan ang polusyon sa Manila Bay, muling nanumbalik ang tunay na ganda ng Baseco Beach na tinaguriang "Little Boracay" sa Maynila.

Idinaos kahapon ang unang taong anibersaryo ng Battle for Manila Bay sa pangunguna ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu sa Baseco para sa malaking pagbabago ng Manila Bay.

Hindi lang sa Maynila ginawa ang paglilinis kundi simultaneous at naging kabahagi sa aktibidad ang Rehiyon 3 at 4.

Bago ang nasabing aktibidad, nagkaroon din ng Inagurasyon sa Sewage Treatment Plant sa Manila Yatch Club at Clean-Up Drive sa kahabaan ng Manila Bay.

Dumalo rin sa aktibidad

sina Senator Cynthia Villar, Metro Manila Development Authority Chairman Danilo Lim, DILG Usec Epimaco Densing, Supreme Court Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta, DoT Asec. Rica Beuna, DENR Usec. Rodolfo Garcia, DOH, PNP-Maritime General Arwin Pagkalinawan, Agriculture Sec. William Dar, Bureau Soil Management Sec. Sonia Salviro, kinatawan ng Laguna Lake Development Authority Tony Medina, Bureau of Fisheries Aquatic Resources, PCG Rear Admiral George Ursula at DENR Usec. Antiporda na may malaking bahagi at tungkulin sa pagpapantling malinis ng Manila Bay.

Bagamat hindi nakadalo si Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso, tumayo naman bilang kanyang kinatawan si Manila PIO Chief Julius Leonen.

Sa pamamagitan ni Leonen, ipinabatid ni Domagoso ang pasasalamat ng pamahalaang lungsod ng Maynila sa iba't ibang ahensya ng pambansang gobyerno at mga sumusuporta mula sa pribadong sektor at mga organisasyon para sa tuloy-tuloy na paglilinis sa Manila Bay sa bahagi ng Roxas Boulevard at sa Baseco beach.

Tinyak naman ng pamahalaang lungsod na tuloy-tuloy rin ang pag-mobilize ng kaniyang mga tauhan, resources upang tumulong sa paglilinis sa mga estero at sa Baseco.

## BASECO BEACH MAAARI NANG LIGUAN

AYON naman kay Cimatu, bumaba na ang caulk-form level ng Baseco kaya't maaari na itong liguan ng mga bata bagamat nasa standard level pa lang ang linis nito habang ang Manila Bay sa Baywalk ay hindi pa maaaring buksan sa publiko dahil nagpatuloy ang pag-rehabillate.

Aniya ang pagbabalik ng kalinisan at ganda ng Manila Bay ay dahil sa pagdadamay ng bawat isa para sa isang hangarin at layunin.

Tinyak naman ni Senator Villar na suportado ng Senado ang proyekto, programa at adbokasiya ng DENR kung saan iminungkahi aniya nito na magtanim ng mangrove sa coastline ng Baseco upang maging successful ang pagbuhay sa baybayin sa lugar.

Dagdag pa ng senadora na may mga itatayo na ring mga septic tank sa Baseco upang hindi na dumaloy sa mga estero ang mga dumi dahil napakaimportante aniya ang kalinisan sa Manila Bay.

Nakuusap din si Villar sa local government units na panatiling malinis ang kanilang lugar upang maging successful ang nasabing proyekto.

Gayundin, sinabi ni Justice Peralta na hindi lamang para sa atin ang tagumpay ng ginagawang pagtutulungan maging malinis ang Manila Bay kundi para sa susunod na henerasyon.

## MGA BULAKENYO NAGSAMA-SAMA

MULING nagsama-sama ang libo-libong mamamayan ng Bulacan kabilang ang mga opisyal at kawani ng iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno sa unang taon ng Battle for Manila Bay para linisin ang pampang ng ilog sa Obando, Bulacan kahapon.

Dinaluhan ito ng mga taga-Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 3, PENRO, Department of Interior and Local Government, Local Government ng Obando, BFAR, BJMP, PNP at mamamayang Bulakenyo.

Suportado ng pamahalaang Obando sa pangunguna ni Mayor Edwin Santos ang programa ng gobyerno sa paglilinis ng mga pampang o ng Battle for Manila Bay.

JOCELYN DOMENDEN at DICK MIRASOL III



NAGTULONG-tulong muli ang mga Bulakenyo na tangalin ang mga basura at linisin ang mga pampang sa unang taon ng Battle for Manila Bay. DICK MIRASOL III



NAGSAMA-sama ang mga opisyal ng DENR, MMDA, DPS, Maritime Group, Manila Police District, Coast Guard, Boys Scouts at mga pribadong indibidwal sa pagdiriwang ng unang taong anibersaryo ng paglilinis sa Manila Bay. C HERAMIS



## Coliform level sa Manila Bay, malaki na ang ibinaba

Makaraan simulan noong 2019 ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang Manila Bay rehabilitation program ay bumubuti na umano ang kalidad ng tubig sa mga pangunahing kanal at lagusan na patungo sa Manila Bay.

Sa ulat kahapon ni Usec. Benny Antiporda kay Environment Sec. Roy A. Cimatu, kumpiyansa ang opisyal na malilinis ang Manila Bay sa pakipagtulungan na rin ng mga iba't ibang sektor.

Bago ang isinagawang rehabilitation kicked off nitong Enero 26, 2019, naitala ng DENR ang mataas na fecal coliform level sa mga pangunahing outfalls ng Manila Bay.

Subalit ngayon, sinabi ni Cimatu na sa pinakahuling tala ng DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) makikita ang malaking pagbaba ng coliform level.

Gamit ang EMB data sinabi ni Cimatu na ang fecal coliform count

sa Padre Faura outfall ay bumaba ng 920,000 na bumaba umano ng 100 milliliter (mpn/100ml) mula sa kanyang pre-rehab record na 7.21 million mpn/100ml.

Mula sa 35 milyon mpn/100ml na iniulat bago simulan ang rehabilitation, sinabi ni Cimatu na ang coliform level sa Raja Soliman/Remedios drainage outfall sa kabuuan ng Aristocrat Restaurant ay bumaba ng 11 milyon mpn/100ml.

Kaugnay nito, ang coliform level sa Manila Yacht Club outfall sa kasalukuyan ay 110 million mpn/100ml mula sa high 54 million mpn/100ml, ayon pa sa DENR chief.

Sa kabila naman ng pag-unlad ng kalidad ng tubig sa mga estero at ilog, aminado si Cimatu na marami pang dapat isagawa lalo na ang standard fecal coliform level ng Manila Bay na 100 mpn/100ml base sa classification nito bilang "Class SB" coastal and marine water.

**Jun Fabon**



# Solon backs Duterte stance vs Manila Bay reclamation

By **RYAN PONCE PACPACO**

AN independent lawmaker on Sunday said he "wholly supports" President Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte's strong stance against the reclamation of 100 square kilometers of the Manila Bay, warning it would demolish vital coastal ecosystems at a time when the national capital region is reeling from high fish prices amid declining harvests.

"The proposed reclamation projects from the private sector are just meant to create large tracts of valuable new land and wealth for some oligarchs out there, at the grave expense of the environment," said BUHAY party-list Rep.

Lito Atienza, former three-term mayor of Manila.

"These unwanted projects are bound to wipe out entire ecosystems, further degrade Manila Bay's water quality and disrupt the food chain in a big way," Atienza, one-time secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, said.

"Once destroyed, these underwater biological communities and their physical environment can never be recovered. They will be gone forever if the projects are allowed to push through," Atienza said.

"What is the point of rehabilitating Manila Bay if the government is just going to allow private developers to bulldoze entire reef areas?" Atienza asked.

Property developers have tendered 25 projects to reclaim 10,000 hectares

of Manila Bay.

Duterte earlier said he was unlikely to approve the "mind-boggling" reclamation of Manila Bay, from Navotas City to Cavite province, "as long as there is no guarantee that the environment will be protected."

In February last year, Duterte stripped the National Economic Development Authority of the power to approve reclamation projects and transferred it to the Philippine Reclamation Authority, which he also put directly under his office.

Besides reducing Manila Bay's 190-kilometer coastline, Atienza warned that the reclamation projects would usher in new highly pollutive activities around the water body.



**Duterte**

"Many of our municipal fishing grounds are already deteriorating fast. This is why our fish harvests are unable to catch up with growing demand, pushing (fish) prices up to the detriment of low-income households," Atienza said.

Last month, the Depart-



**Lito Atienza**

ment of Agriculture authorized the importation of another 45,000 metric tons of fish, including galunggong (round scad), in a bid to stabilize elevated market prices due to low supply.





## Manila Bay reclamation will destroy ecosystems - Atienza

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"We should be revitalizing Manila Bay's ecosystems, not flattening them with more reclamation projects," Atienza said.

Ryan Ponce Pacpaco



## **Nahakot na basura sa Manila Bay, umabot na sa 2K trucks**

Nasa 2,000 truckload na ng basura kasama na ang mga burak, ang nakolekta sa Manila Bay may isang taon na ang nakaraan buhat nang simulan ang rehibitasyon sa baybayin, ayon kay MMDA spokeper-son Celine Pialago.

Ang 11,000 cubic meters ng basura ay katumbas umano ng higit 1,880 trucks na nakolekta sa Manila Baywalk at Baseco area habang nasa 6,000 cubic meters o katumbas na mahigit 1,000 trucks ng burak din ang nakuha sa drainage sa Metro

Manila.

Ang Manila Bay Rehabilitaion program na pinangunahan ng DENR ay bilang pagtugon sa naging kautusan ng Korte Suprema noong taong 2008 na nag-aatas sa iba't ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno na linisin ito.

Noong nakalipas na Huwebes Enero 24, sa talumpati ni SC Chief Justice Peralta sa idinaos na Battle for Manila Bay: 2nd Manila Bay Task Force Principals' Meeting and Conference" na ginanap sa Diamond Hotel, isang malaking hamon

ang rehibilitasyong ito para sa 13 ahensiya ng gobyerno.

Sa ilalim ng writ of continuing mandamus, kinakailangang gawin ng mga kinauukulang ahensiya ng gobyerno ang mga serye, o tuluy-tuloy na paglilinis at rehibilitasyon sa Manila Bay, hanggat hindi nakukuntento sa resulta ang Kataas-Taasang Hukuman.

Kabilang sa 13 ahensya ng gobyerno na dapat umakto sa rehibilitasyon ng Manila Bay ay ang; Metro Manila Development Authority; Department

of Environment and Natural Resources; Department of Education; Department of Health; Department of Agriculture; Department of Public Works and Highways; Department of Budget and Management; Philippine Coast Guard; Philippine National Police Maritime Group; Department of the Interior and Local Government; Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System; Local Water Utilities Administration; at ang Philippine Ports Authority. (Ludy Bermudo)



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**PINANGUNAHAN** nina Senate Environment and Natural Resources Chairperson Senator Crythia Villar kasama sina Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu, Agrarian Reform Secretary William Dar, MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim at mga kawani ng iba't ibang sangay ng pamahalaan at mga lokal na opisyal ng Maynila ang 1st Anniversary ng Battle of Manila Bay sa Baseco Beach, Tondo, Maynila kahapon. **(MANNY MARCELO)**



# Bulacan rivers' water quality improving

By **RAMON EFREN LAZARO**

**OBANDO, Bulacan** – The water quality in Bulacan's river system has improved since the Manila Bay rehabilitation was implemented.

This was the assessment made by representatives of different government agencies led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) tasked to implement an order of the

Supreme Court to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

Paquito Moreno Jr., regional executive director of the DENR-Central Luzon, said there is a need to clean the waterways to protect aquatic life.

Since the launch of the Battle for Manila Bay, a total of 1.6 million kilos of wastes were collected from Central Luzon's river system.

A portion of Manila Bay

in Mariveles, Bataan has been declared safe for swimming.

Obando Mayor Edwin Santos said the Manila Bay cleanup in Bulacan improved the quality of water in a river in Barangay Tawiran, which was considered as one of the dirtiest rivers in the world.

Santos said before the Manila Bay rehabilitation program was launched, oysters and other fish species in the town's river system

had difficulty growing due to pollution.

A year after the cleanup, aquatic life in Obando's river system started to improve, residents said

Fishermen said their catches are returning to normal and enough for their families.

Villagers attributed the improvement of the water quality to people's awareness on proper waste dumping.



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# Manila Standard

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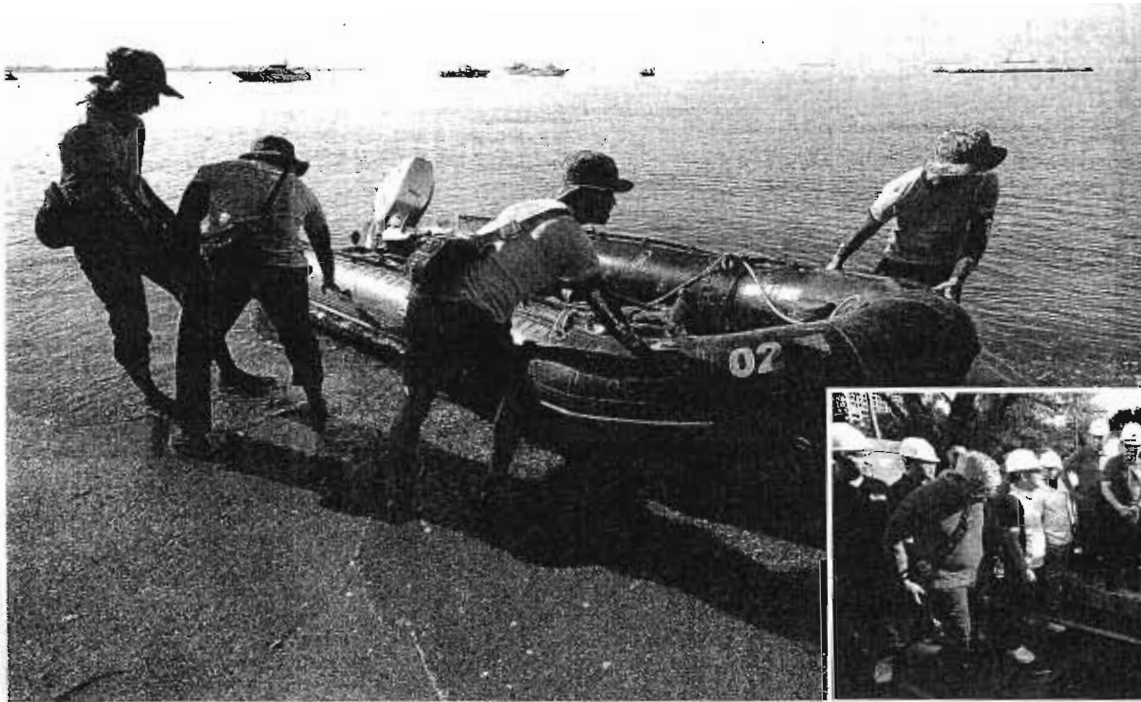
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**BATTLE FOR MANILA BAY.** Policemen from the Philippine National Police's Maritime group land at the beach front of the Baseco Beach in Port area Manila, a year after the launch of the Battle for Manila cleanup program by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other key government agencies. Inset photo showed DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu turning on the switch for the Manila Bay Treatment plant during the 'Battle for Manila Bay' in celebration of the 1st anniversary on Sunday. With him are Supreme Court Justice Diosdado Peralta, Sen. Cynthia Villar, US Ambassador, Sung Kim and MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim and Robert Joseph, President Manila Yacht Club, Norman Cruz.





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**Pitching in** Children had caught on with the campaign for a clean environment realizing that they are its main beneficiary, thus, their initiative to contribute in maintaining the Baseco beach in Tondo enjoyable. BOB DUMAGO JR. @tribunepnl\_bob







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# Balita

ANG PAMBANWAGANG PAMAYONGANG TAGALOG SA BANSA

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**MALINIS NA BA?** Nagtatampisaw ang mga bata sa tabing-dagat sa Baseco, Tondo, Maynila kahapon, eksaktong isang taon na ang nakararaan nang ilunsad ang Battle for Manila cleanup program ng pamahalaan.

**ALI VICOY**



## Labanan ang plastic pollution sa pamamagitan ng 'Refill Revolution'

**N**ASA 600 residente ng San Fernando City, Pampanga ang nakilahok sa "Refill Revolution" at nagtungo sa Poblacion Basketball Court sa Barangay Sto. Rosario, dala ang kanilang mga recycled plastic bottles at containers, na pinuno ng mga condiments at iba pang produkto.

Ang "Refill Revolution" ay isang advocacy campaign ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) sa Central Luzon na layong labanan ang plastic pollution sa pamamagitan ng pagbawas sa produksiyon nito at pangangailangan.

Sa ginanap na aktibidad na inorganisa ng City Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO), nagkaroon ng oportunidad ang mga residente na makapag-refill ng mga kitchen condiments, laundry products, at iba pang household items sa pamamagitan ng pagdadala ng malinis at reusable bottles, containers at mga "eco bags".

Ang mga produkto ay ibinebenta ng 50 hanggang 70 porsiyentong mas mababa kumpara sa aktuwal na retail price sa mga supermarkets.

Ayon kay CENRO officer Regina Rodriguez, nais nilang maturuan ang mga residente na iwasan ang mga single-use plastics at sa halip ay isulong ang eco-friendly at mainam na paraan sa paggamit ng mga produktong plastic.

"We are encouraging every household to avoid regular purchase of products in plastic sachets or containers. If possible, re-use plastic containers and grab every opportunity of refilling activities," aniya, kasabay ng anunsiyo na isa pang Refill Revolution ang nakatakdang idaos sa February 21 bilang bahagi ng "Kaganapan" cityhood celebration.

Samantala, muli namang inihayag ni City Mayor Edwin David Santiago reiterated ang kanyang hangarin para sa San Fernando upang manatili itong "Zero-Waste City" sa kabila ng pag-unlad ng lungsod.

"We are the first-ever model of Zero Waste City in the whole country. Let us prove it by remaining educated and disciplined enough to protect and preserve our environment," ani Santiago.



**Editorial**

## *Daming Pinoy ang ayaw sa plastic*

**A**YON sa survey, maraming Pilipino ang gustong ipagbawal na ang paggamit ng single-use plastics. Ibig sabihin nito, nagigising na ang mga Pinoy sa masamang dulot ng disposable plastics sa kapaligiran at kalikasan. Nakikita na nila ang malaking problemang kinakaharap sa plastic pollution. At ang tanging solusyon sa problema ay ipagbawal ang paggamit ng single-use plastics.

Sa pinaka-latest survey ng Social Weather Stations (SWS) na kinomisyon ng Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, pito sa bawat 10 Pilipino ang gustong ipagbawal na ang paggamit ng plastics. Ginawa ang survey noong Setyembre 2019. Kabilang sa mga plastic na gustong ipagbawal ay ang sando at labo bags, straws, stirrers, styrofoam



Larry Goy '20  
1.27.20

containers, sachets, tetra pack ng juices, plastic na baso, kutsara, tinidor, botelya ng juice at tubig. Ayon pa sa survey, 59.8 bilyong piraso ng plastic sachets at 17 bilyon na shopping bags ang ginagamit sa bansa taun-taon.

Ang Pilipinas ay pang-apat sa mga bansa sa Asia na sandamakmak kung magtapon ng basurang plastic sa karagatan. Nangunguna ang China, ikalawa ang Vietnam at ikatlo ang Indonesia.

Noong nakaraang taon, sinabi ni Pres. Rodrigo Duterte na balak niyang ipagbawal ang paggamit ng plastic sa buong bansa. Nabanggit niya ito sa Cabinet meeting makaraang mapanood ang presentation ng Natural Resources Development Corp. na may kinalaman sa government program para sa environment at climate change. Maganda ang balak na ito ng Presidente at nararapat isulong. Panahon na para ibawal ang paggamit ng plastic. Bagama't kailangan ito ng pagsang-ayon ng Kongreso, ang malaman na kontra siya rito ay malaking bagay para maisakatuparan ang balak.

Panahon na para labanan ang plastic pollution. Dapat maisalba ang kapaligiran at buhay ng mga lamandagat. Damay sa pagkamatay ang mga whale shark na nakakakain ng mga plastic na basura. Ituloy ang giyera laban sa paggamit ng single-use plastic.



# 20 pangolins, tarsier rescued

By Romar Miranda  
and Edwin O. Fernandez  
@InqNational

Two wildlife rescues—one in Palawan and another in South Cotabato—saved pangolins, spiny anteaters, birds and a tarsier.

Twenty live pangolins (*Manis culionensis*) were recovered from a “notorious” wildlife trafficker on Saturday in El Nido town, Palawan province, authorities reported on Sunday.

In Koronadal City, South Cotabato, a villager rescued an adult male tarsier that found its way into the hands of children in a remote village.

Dubbed the “most trafficked wildlife in the world,” the pangolins were about to be picked up in El Nido’s Barangay Pasadeña by a certain “financier” on a boat coming that same day from Quezon town in southern Palawan, according to Voltaire de los Angeles, forest technician and team leader of Community Environment and Natural Resources Office-Quick Response Team (Cenro-QRT) Taytay.

The suspect, Wilter Tenorio, 33, bought the pangolins from trappers and catchers in northern Palawan towns, including El Nido, Taytay and Roxas.

“[Tenorio] is really notorious for his illegal deeds in El Nido, using different aliases. During our last operation [in Cadlao] regarding cut trees, he also resisted arrest and escaped,” De los Angeles said.

Tenorio has been transferring the pangolins in hidden wooden crates to cover his tracks, moving from one place to another before his arrest.

## Spiny anteaters, birds

Recovered from him were transaction receipts and a mobile phone containing text messages among people involved in the wildlife trafficking operation.

Also found were spiny anteaters and birds, which were



TRAFFICKED Wildlife rescuers found the 20 pangolins hidden in wooden crates in El Nido, Palawan province. —PHOTO COURTESY OF CENRO-TAYTAY

turned over to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD).

Tenorio faces charges of violating Republic Act No. 9147, or the Philippine Wildlife Act.

The joint operation was conducted by the PCSD, Bantay Palawan Task Force, Naval Forces West, Joint Task Force Malampaya, 3rd Marine Company of Marine Battalion Landing Team 3, Cenro and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The Philippine pangolin faces “extremely high risk of extinction.” The International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species reclassified it as a critically endangered species in December 2019.

In Koronadal, Sabdullah C. Abubacar, executive director of the DENR in Soccsksargen (South Cotabato, Cotabato City, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City) region, said the tarsier was rescued from the children by Arnel Alvarez, a resident of Barangay Assumption, on Jan. 23.

“I saw kids in Sitio Elalam playing with the tarsier,” Alvarez told environment officials. “Aware it is a tarsier, I brought the small [animal] to the DENR.”

Abubacar lauded Alvarez’s action and the immediate response of DENR personnel. “The protection and conser-

vation of wildlife species is among our priorities,” he said.

The tarsier was about 12 centimeters tall and weighed 160 grams.

## Released to the wild

Since the primate appeared to be in good health, environmental personnel led by Alvarez and village officials released it back to the wild.

The tarsier is on the list of vulnerable and threatened wildlife species, according to Forester Mangayao Macapodi, chief of the DENR-12 Protected Area Management and Biodiversity Conservation Section.

Macapodi said the discovery of the adult tarsier in Assumption and another one in Barangay Linan in Tupi, South Cotabato, recently showed that the province had been home to some of these endangered species.

The DENR plans to conduct an information and education campaign in Assumption to strengthen people’s awareness of the importance of biodiversity.

Macapodi appealed to local officials and the villagers not to capture any wildlife species.

“Let the wildlife live in their natural habitat. If they are harmed or injured, immediately turn them over to the nearest DENR office to ensure their well-being and protection,” Macapodi said. **INQ**



**SHADES OF GREEN** Storyteller Dyali Justo of Adarna House raises the children's awareness in protecting the planet during Saturday's Read-Along session at the Inquirer Building in Makati City. —EARVIN PERIAS

## READ-ALONG: KIDS LEARN TO GO GREEN, SAVE THE PLANET

Anyone—even children—can go green and help save the environment.

This was the important takeaway from the Inquirer Read-Along session held at the Inquirer office on Saturday for a hundred children who were made to understand the value of caring for Mother Earth.

The program kicked off with television host Toni-pet Gaba narrating the story "Bayan ng Basura," written by Augie Rivera and illustrated by Jill Arteche.

The book, which was launched during the same read-along session, tells the story of a pawikan (sea turtle) that gets swept away to a land of trash where it meets other sea animals in danger because of all the human garbage.

Gaba, a returning storyteller, emphasized the role of children in taking care of the environment.

"They are young and they have their own small ways. But of course the most important thing to do is to empower them that their little contributions can have a big effect overall," Gaba said.

Gaba added that it is urgent to seek help and spread awareness about the state of the environment.

"It has always been an issue ever since. Our world is all we have and now more than ever we shouldn't stop spreading the message and asking for help to save the earth," he said.

The children received signed copies of the book "Bayan ng Basura," published by Adarna House, from Greenpeace Philippines.

During the question and

answer session, Rivera, also a scriptwriter, said the state of the environment he witnessed on his shows inspired him to write the book. He advised the children aspiring to become writers to keep on reading.

"If you want to be able to write a book in the future, you should read a lot of books today. Then you will know what makes a good book," he said.

Describing the illustrations of the murky underwater in the book, Arteche said she wanted to emphasize how the sea can turn scary and unsafe when it turns dirty because of human trash.

Veteran storyteller Dyali Justo of Adarna House, for her part, read "Si Pilandok sa Pulo ng Pawikan," written by Virgilio S. Almario and illustrated by Kora Dandan-Albano. It is about a hero, Pilandok, who battles a scheming datu who threatens the existence of pawikans.

Another read-along program was held in Marawi last Friday in time for the United Nations International Education Day. The book "Water Lilies for Marawi," which was produced to inspire learners affected by the Marawi siege in 2017, was read during the session.

Written by Heidi Emily Eusebio-Abad, translated into Maranao by Jalillah Gampong-Alonto and illustrated by Shellette Gipa, the book tells the story of children who live and cope with war.

Saturday's session, hosted by Inquirer Lifestyle writing editor Ruth Navarra-Mayo, was held in cooperation with Greenpeace Philippines.

—ARIANNE SUAREZ, INQUIRER RESEARCHING



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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Baguio eyes  
environment  
fee**

BAGUIO CITY – The Baguio City Council is set to pass an ordinance imposing an environmental user's fee in the city and prescribing penalties for violations of the same and for other related purposes.

Approved on first reading, the proposed ordinance authored by Councilors Maria Mylen Victoria G. Yaranon and Joel Alangsab is aimed at promoting the protection and conservation of natural resources pursuant to existing Philippine environmental laws. It also assures the wise utilization and management on a sustainable basis of the city's natural resources with the necessity of maintaining a sound ecological balance and enhancing the environment.

**Aldwin Quitasol**





# 'Takbo sa Kalikasan' to promote awareness for environment protection

By Ed Andaya

AS part of its advocacy to raise awareness for the importance of a clean environment, the Green Media Events Company will continue to hold the Takbo para sa Kalikasan 2020 and other similar events this year.

Green Media Events managing director Jenny Lumba said runners from all walks of life are expected to participate in the events not only to keep them physically fit but help raise awareness to the need to protect the environment.

"This is our own little way of helping promote a clean environment and keep it safe from any undesirable factors," said Lumba during the 52nd "Usapang Sports" by the Tabloids Organization in Philippine Sports (TOPS) at the National Press Club in Intramuros, Manila.

Lumba said the Takbo para sa Kalikasan is composed of four fun runs representing the four elements -- Fire Run on May 31, Water Run on July 19, Air Run on Sept. 20 and Earth Run on Nov. 22.

To kick off the Kalikasan event, Green Media Events will also support the staging of the Pride Run for LGBT community on Feb. 16 at the CCP Complex in Pasay City.

"Tuloy-tuloy na po ito



Green Media managing director Jenny Lumba talks about her plans, while TOPS president Ed Andaya of *People's Tonight* and Fritz "Barefoot Diva" Labastida look on.

kaya ina-anyayahan namin hindi lang ang mga regular running enthusiasts kundi pati na ang mga kaibigan nating nagmamalasakit sa ating kalikasan," added Lumba in the weekly public service program supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, National Press Club, PAGCOR, Community Basketball Association and HG Guyabano Tea Leaf Drinks.

"Patuloy din po ang aming community outreach program tulad nung nakaraang taon na kung saan ang Green Media Events team kasama ang ilang vol-

unteers ay namahagi ng groceries at medicines sa Charity Home of Joy for the Sick Children, pati na sa mga naapektuhan ng pagputok ng Taal Volcano."

Fritz Labastida, who accompanied Lumba in the same forum, urged everybody to participate in the 3k, 5k, 10k and 16k events not only to keep themselves physically fit but also to meet new friends who share the same advocacy.

"Huwag po kayo mag-atubiling lunahok para na rin manatiling malakas ang pangangatawan pati na ang kalusugan,"

said Labastida, who also earned monicker "Barefoot Diva" in the running community.

"Marahil sa dami ko pong napapasayang mga tao at naging inspirasyon na ako ng mga runners dahil sa pagtakbo kong walong sapatos dahil sa napakamahal ng mga branded na shoes ay pinagkatiwalaan na po ako ng event na ito para mapalaganappa ang kanilang adbokasiya," explained Labastida.

Labastida also urged participants to bring their own water container and avoid the use of plastic cups during the fun run as their way of helping the environment.



# Maynilad kaakibat ng gobyerno sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay



Ang paglalagat ng bagong sewer lines ay kailangan para mapalawak ang sewerage coverage ng Maynilad sa West Zone concession.

Patuloy na nakikipagtulungan ang Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) sa malawakang inisyatibo na linisin at muling buhayin ang Manila Bay, kasama ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), at lahat ng mga ahensya na may kaugnayan sa pangangalaga ng mga katawang-tubig.

Bukod sa walang humpay na pakikilahok sa regular na *coastal cleanups* at pagtatanim ng *mangroves* sa baybayin ng Manila Bay, hindi rin tumigil ang Maynilad sa pagbuhos ng puhunan para magpatayo ng bagong *wastewater treatment facilities* at *sewer lines*, na siyang sasalo at maglilinis sa maruming tubig na nilalabas ng mga tahanan at establisimiyento bago dumaloy sa mga estero.

Kaya naman nagpapatakbo na ang Maynilad ng 22 *wastewater treatment facilities* sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng *concession area* nito—mula sa dating dalawa lamang.

Gayun din, nakapaglatag na ang Maynilad ng mga bagong *sewer line*, at napalawak ang bilang ng *customers* na nasasakupan ng *sewerage coverage* nito. Kung dati ay mahigit 31,400 katao lamang ang nabibigyan ng *sewerage services* noong 1997, ngayon ay nasa 2 milyong katao na.

Samantala, patuloy ang pagbibigay ng *sanitation services* ng Maynilad sa mga *customer* na hindi pa konektado sa *sewerage network* nito. Mayroon itong tatlong ISO-certified Septage Treatment Plants, at 89 *vacuum trucks* na umiikot sa buong West Zone para maglinis ng *septic tanks* ng *customers* kada lima hanggang pitong taon.



Sa pakikipagtulungan ng iba't-ibang ahensya, napalipat ang *informal settlers* mula sa *easement* ng Estero de Paco kaya nasagawa ang paglinis nito at paglalagat ng *sewer lines* ng Maynilad.



Patuloy ang pamumuhunan ng Maynilad sa pagpapatayo ng mga bagong *wastewater treatment plant*, alinsunod sa layunin nito na protektahan ang mga katawang-tubig.

Ito ay matapos mamuhunan ang Maynilad ng mahigit P41 bilyon para mapalawak at masaayos ang *wastewater infrastructure* sa West Zone ng Metro Manila.

Sa pamamagitan ng patuloy na suporta ng gobyerno at pakikipagtulungan ng publiko, sama-sama nating maisasakatuparan ang layunin na malinis ang mga estero, at mapaganda muli ang makasaysayang Manila Bay.





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THE IMPORTANT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRAM  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE MANILA BAY TASK FORCE  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF

## "THE BATTLE FOR MANILA BAY"

HEADED BY



MANILA WATER  
CARE IN EVERY DROP



Sec. Eduardo M. Año

Department of the Interior and Local Government



Sec. Roy Agullana Cimat

Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Sec. Bernadette Romulo-Puyat

Department of Tourism

Created through Administrative Order No. 16, s. 2019 of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

We are happy to announce the commissioning leading to the full operation of  
*Manila Water's 41<sup>st</sup> and the Philippines' largest wastewater facility,  
the Ilugin Sewage Treatment Plant in Brgy. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.*





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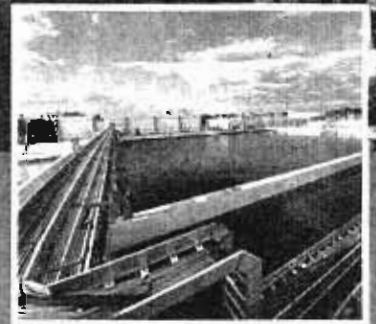
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“  
In celebration of  
the 1st anniversary of  
The Battle for Manila Bay,  
we affirm our continued commitment  
to the restoration of the coastal and marine  
ecosystem of the Manila Bay.”

– Lt. Gen. Emmanuel B. Salamat (Ret.)  
Administrator, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System



**ILUGIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT**

- 100-million-liters-per-day (MLD) treatment capacity, expandable to 165 MLD
- 658,392 households surrounding the Pasig River to benefit from the project

Manila Water wishes to thank all its partners in realizing this landmark project:







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PEOPLE'S  
**Tonight**



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# MASAYANG PAGBATI



## SA MANILA BAY TASK FORCE SA PAGDIRIWANG NG UNANG ANIBERSARYO NG "THE BATTLE FOR MANILA BAY" SA PANGUNGUNA NINA



Sec. Eduardo M. Año

Secretary of the Office of the Local Government



Sec. Rey Aquilana Cimeta

Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Sec. Bernadette Romulo-Priant

Department of Public Works

Nilikha sa bisa ng Administrative Order No. 16, s. 2019 ng Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte

Ikinalulugod naming ihavag ang pag-komisyon tungo sa ganap na operasyon ng  
ika-47 sewage treatment facility ng Manila Water, at siya ring pinakamalaking wastewater facility sa Pilipinas,  
ang Ilugin Sewage Treatment Plant sa Brgy. Pinagbuhatan, Lungsod ng Pasig.



sa pagdiriwang ng unang anibersaryo ng Battle for Manila Bay, aming pinaninindigan ang patuloy na suporta sa pagpapanumbalik ng ekosistem ng baybayin at karagatan ng Manila Bay.

Li. Gen. Emmanuel B. Salamat (Ret.)  
Administrator, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System

### ILUGIN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

- 100-million-liters-per-day (MLD) treatment capacity at maaring palakihin hanggang 165 MLD
- 658,392 kabahayan sa paligid ng Pasig River ang makikinabang mula sa pasilidad na ito

Nais magpasalamat ng Manila Water sa lahat ng naging katuwang nito sa proyektong ito.





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# MASAYANG PAGBATI



SA MANILA BAY TASK FORCE SA PAGDIRIWANG NG UNANG ANIBERSARYO NG

## "THE BATTLE FOR MANILA BAY"

SA PANGUNGUNA NINA



Sec. Eduard Año  
Department of the Interior and Local Government



Sec. Roy Acosta  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Sec. Bernabe Go  
Department of Public Works and Highways

Nilikha sa bisa ng Administrative Order No. 16, s. 2019 ng Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte

Ikinalulugod naming ihayag ang pag-komisyon tungo sa ganap na operasyon ng *ika-41 sewage treatment facility ng Manila Water, at siya ring pinakamolaking wastewater facility sa Pilipinas, ang Ilugin Sewage Treatment Plant sa Brgy. Pinagbuhatan, Lungsod ng Pasig.*



“Sa pagdiriwang ng unang anibersaryo ng Battle for Manila Bay, aming pinaninindigan ang patuloy na suporta sa pagpapanumbalik ng ecosystem ng baybayin at karagatan ng Manila Bay.”

- Lt. Gen. Emmanuel B. Salamat (Ret.)  
Administrator, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System

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## MASAYANG PAGBATI

### SA MANILA BAY TASK FORCE SA PAGDIRIWANG NG UNANG ANIBERSARYO NG

# "THE BATTLE FOR MANILA BAY"

### SA PANGUNGUNA NINA



Sec. Eduardo M. Año  
Department of the Interior and Local Government



Sec. Roy Aguilana Cimatu  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Sec. Bernadette Romulo-Puyat  
Department of Justice

Nilikha sa bisa ng Administrative Order No. 16, s. 2019 ng Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte

Ikinalulugod naming ihayag ang pag-komisyon tungo sa ganap na operasyon ng ika-41 sewage treatment facility ng Manila Water, at siya ring pinakamalaking wastewater facility sa Pilipinas, ang Ilugin Sewage Treatment Plant sa Brgy. Pinagbuhatan, Lungsod ng Pasig.



“Sa pagdiriwang ng unang anibersaryo ng Battle for Manila Bay, aming pinaninindigan ang patuloy na suporta sa pagpapanumbalik ng ecosystem ng baybayin at karagatan ng Manila Bay.”

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Nais magpasalamat ng Manila Water sa lahat ng naging katuwang nito sa proyektong ito.





# A MONUMENTAL DISGRACE

By **Vernon Velasco**

Mary had a resolution: declutter her life.

"Start with something small," advised her guru of tidiness on the joys of giving up the extra stuff. "You're missing out on so many things when your hands are full."

In Mary's hands was a fast-food package she didn't know how and where to dispose of. It was New Year's Eve at Rizal Park. When the countdown trickled down to zero and fireworks lit to prompt the people to look up the sky, she craned her neck to check if anybody was looking.

There was none, save for the oblivious eyes of Jose Rizal. "You can't see me," she told the statue, which was in a distance and safely out of earshot. Whereupon the fast-food package accidentally slipped from her hands so that they were free to hold her boyfriend's hand.

If at all, Mary wasn't the only one. The rubbish that seemed to elude the park's ubiquitous bins and curbs found their way onto the park's pavement, the benches, the manicured lawns! The lawns!

Luneta may be free of the extent of pollution eating away at monuments half a world away, and spared from vandalisms lost in tangled tributes and written in stones. But the monument was facing an equally monumental problem.

At this time of the year, when droves flock to Rizal Park in Manila to revel at its yearly evening show, the national park buckles under the morning-after heap of discards people indiscriminately threw as if out of a moving car.

It's easy to visualize the scale of plastic waste, and it irks the sanitation department. But at least the numbers are improving.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reckoned that the mound of waste amassed from the park shortly after it hosted the New Year's Eve revelry was less than the Christmas Eve garbage haul on the same year, which was pegged at 50 metric tons (MT). It's a quantum leap even from the previous years, especially in 2014, when the cleanup crew collected 28 truckloads, or a whopping 156 MT of refuse, hours after the New Year celebration.

Of course, the authorities didn't take it sitting down. The DENR has called on LGUs to pass local ordinances imposing a heftier P1,000 fine against litterbugs.

The Environment department said the Rizal Park trash reflects the Filipinos' indifference to the environment, notwithstanding the nagging reminders by the DENR, government agencies and environmental groups to keep public parks and places clean during the holidays.

Last December, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu declared a garbage crisis but no pronouncement of P1 billion budget for solid waste management this year.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda underscored the need for local government units (LGU) to step up their implementation of Republic Act 9003, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which prohibits littering, throwing and dumping of waste matter in public places and establishments, including parks, or causing or permitting the same.

"If necessary, LGU should not hesitate penalizing litterers by imposing fines or making them render community service," Antiporda said. "Amending the law to impose stiffer penalties will be a long course. In the meantime, LGU can pass city or municipal ordinances to strengthen RA 9003."

Antiporda also said the DENR would never get tired of reminding the public that taking care of the environment is not the sole responsibility of the government.

"Even if we have garbage collectors, street sweepers, volunteers and other stakeholders helping us, all our efforts for the environment will come to naught if the mindset of Filipinos is, there is always someone who will clean up after them," he pointed out.

Antiporda said the country's perennial garbage problem will never be resolved "if Filipinos do not do their share by simply minding their own trash and practice proper solid waste management everywhere they go."



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"Cimatu had earlier said effective solid waste management may be expensive, but LGU are not without options. He said that adjacent municipalities or cities may cluster together and pool their resources to establish a common sanitary landfill

In a world drowning in trash, everybody is egged on to partake in a nation changing its ways to address its ever-growing landfills — from the creation of categories (recyclables, reusables, compostables) and eliminating waste by

easier and less expensive to allow more LGU to set up their own solid waste management facility.

Sanitary landfill is a waste disposal method allowed under Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which LGU

# WHOSE WOE IS THE LANDFILL WOE?

sacrificing the main objective of proper garbage disposal, which is to prevent leachate from going to waterways." This is Cimatu's marching orders to senior officials and employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) during his traditional "New Year's Call."

Cimatu specifically instructed Benny Antiporda, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns, to "review and revise" DENR Administrative Order 2001-34 or the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9003 "to make way for better and bigger sanitary landfills."

**A simple way to curb landfill woes and propel the country's zero-waste initiative forward? Empower the local government units.**

The DENR chief lamented that only 10 percent of concerned LGU nationwide have sanitary landfills two decades after RA 9003 was enacted.

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

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

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

If lack of funds is a problem, Cimatu said LGU may avail of government loans, particularly the one being offered by the Development Bank of the Philippines under its green financing program.

LGU, he said, can come up with a scheme to pay back the loan, such as through collection of tipping fees.



are duty-bound to follow.

But Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu noted that a lot of LGU find it difficult to comply with the law as building and maintaining a sanitary landfill is

costly and complicated.

"Make the establishment and operation of a sanitary landfill simpler and less costly without

rediscovering thrift to emphasize that the entire trash problem is all about you, to businesses that contribute greatly reassessing their responsibility to the environment.

The order of the day: Think differently about trash. And it weighs heavier on the government.

This calls not for the government utilizing expensive sophisticated collection systems or an ultra-radical plan to end plastic waste. A simple way to curb landfill woes and propel the country's zero-waste initiative forward? Empower the local government units (LGU). How? Make the establishment and operation of a sanitary landfill







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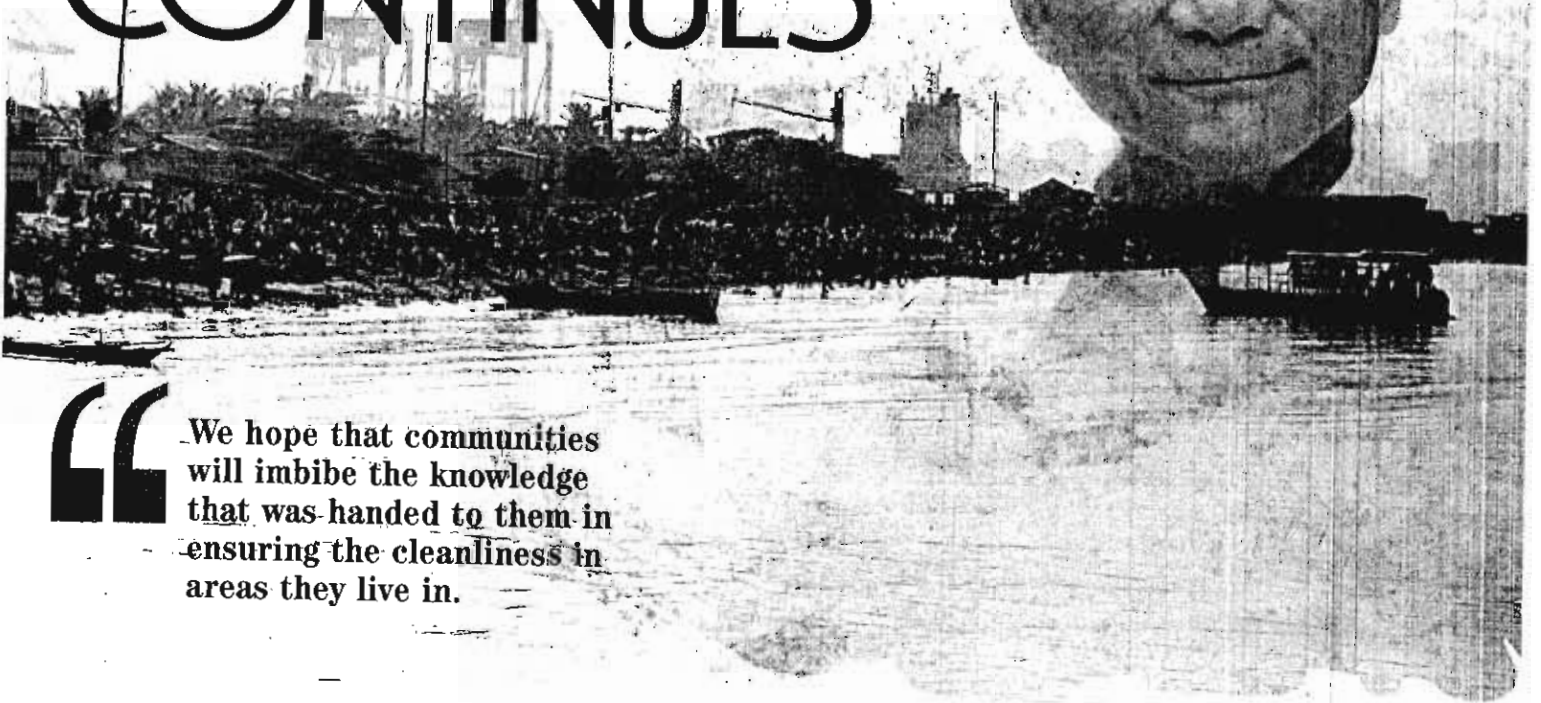
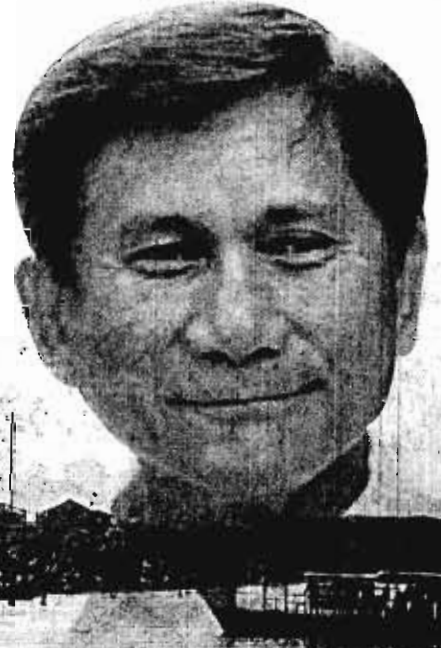
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# THE FIGHT CONTINUES



“ We hope that communities will imbibe the knowledge that was handed to them in ensuring the cleanliness in areas they live in.

By Vernon Velasco

Manila Bay has witnessed war twice: one, territorial, the other, environmental.

And while the armed conflict that wasn't even ours in 1898 is history, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu's "Battle for Manila Bay" continues down a long and winding road to peace — his peace of mind.

In 2019, when the decisive campaign began in earnest to restore what's considered the soul of the celebrated City of Manila, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has curbed the bay's will-sapping challenges: fumes, sewage, people.

Inspired by the turnout that may well come down as a blueprint for restoring fragile natural resources, Cimatu is determined, more than ever, to exponentially intensify efforts at the outset of 2020.

The tall order was not to make filthy water drinkable, or alter the course of a river. It is to

In his traditional "New Year Call," the DENR chief said, to achieve this, the DENR has to do the cleanup daily — and to shake the department's officials and employees out of their trees, basically.

"I want DENR personnel to be out there cleaning daily and those with desk jobs to experience how it is to work in the field," Cimatu told environment workers in DENR's Central and regional offices straddling the Manila Bay region, including bureaus and attached agencies.

Thus far, the rehabilitation is still in its first phase, which is the cleanup and water quality monitoring. The next two phases will be relocation and rehabilitation and education, protection and maintenance.

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

To wit, 150 DENR workers will be deployed



buff the bay into a high mirror shine, where people flock not just to witness something majestic, but one that's characteristic of any Grade-A summer destination — sun-kissed, chiseled brawn sprawling on the sand.

specifically to the Baywalk and Baseco beach, two of Manila Bay's main tributaries, every day.

Thus far, the rehabilitation is still in its first phase, which is the cleanup and water quality monitoring. The next two phases will be relocation and rehabilitation

and education, protection and maintenance.

As of September last year, the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau and the Laguna Lake Development Authority had inspected 14,122 commercial establishments around Manila Bay, of which 2,684 were issued notices of violations and 107 were slapped with cease and desist orders.

Close to 70,000 volunteers from the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and CALABARZON have collected over 2.3 million kilograms of waste through cleanups, trash boats and garbage traps.

According to DENR-NCR a total of 70 stations were monitored in the Manila Bay region — 31 bathing beaches, 18 river mouths, 16 drainage outfalls and five rivers.

The Manila Bay Task Force has identified 44,125 informal settler families living within the Manila Bay region. While relocation will still be carried out in the second phase of rehabilitation — 61 families, specifically situated along Estero de Magdalena — 188 families, were already relocated to Brgy. Cabuco, Trece Martirez, Cavite — this necessitates clearing 547 kilometers of easements already delineated by the DENR in NCR and Central Luzon.

Integral to these cosmetic changes, the DENR led the planting of native and fruit-bearing tree

seedlings and mangrove propagules.

The agency also intensified its information and education campaign (IEC) on the importance of rehabilitating Manila Bay by conducting over 133 seminars, trainings and activities participated in by at least 8,048 individuals.

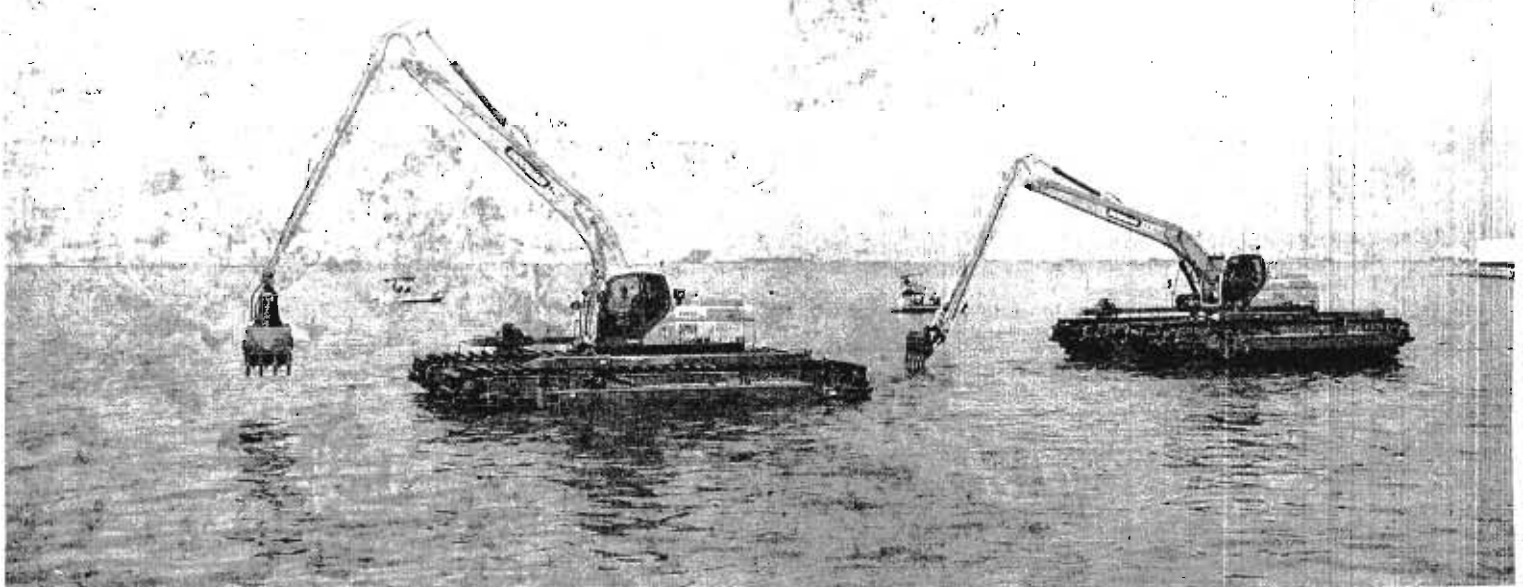
The Environment department also came out with 4,365 printed materials, such as on the ongoing rehabilitation, as well as nine information campaigns and 43 updates posted on various social media platforms. Some 133 seminars were conducted for the campaign.

He said the interventions related to IEC will further increase as the rehabilitation progresses.

"We hope that communities will imbibe the knowledge that was handed to them in ensuring the cleanliness in areas they live in," Cimatu expressed.

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

"Our effort to restore Manila Bay is now in full swing and we hope to sustain the momentum of restoring it to its former glory in the coming years," Cimatu said, noting that the Manila Bay rehabilitation will remain a top priority of the government until 2022.





**NAPAG-ARALAN** at nalaman na ang uri ng virus na mabilis na pumapatay sa bansang China ngayon.

Dahil dito, nagsimula na ring gumawa ng bakuna ang pamahalaang China laban sa sakit.

Simula nang may mamatay na kinapitan ng Novel-Corona Virus o N-CoV nitong Enero 10, 2020, 56 na ang namamatay at nasa 2,000 na ang naospital.

May ulat namang daang libo na ang tinamaan ng sakit o kaya'y pumupunta sa mga ospital para magpa-check up sa takot na matamaan sila ng nakamamatay na sakit.

May malaking takot na umiiral dahil parang SARS na mabilis na pumapatay ang sakit gaya ng nangyari sa China at Hong Kong noong 2002-2003 na mahigit 800 tao ang namatay sa loob lang ng limang buwan.

#### MGA PROBLEMA

May ulat na may mga Filipinong nasa Wuhan na nagnanais na umuwi ng bansa para makalwas sa sakit.

Subalit imposible nang magawang maluwi ang mga ito dahil total lockdown na ang lahat ng transportasyon sa nasabing lugar sa China.

Kaugnay nito, pinabalik na rin natin sa China ang mga Tsinong dumarating sa Pilipinas, partikular sa Aklan.

Dumating na nga ang isang eroplanong galing Wuhan para sunduin ang nasa 179 Chinese tourists na nais pumunta sa Boracay ngunit pinigilan ng ating mga awtoridad na bumaba at mamasyal.

Ang mga kamag-anak ng mga Filipino sa Wuhan o saanman sa China na may lockdown sa lahat ng uri ng transportasyon ay gumawa na lang ng paraan na makipagkomunikasyon na mag-ingat na lang.

Hindi man sabihin, aktibo ang mga opisyal ng pamahalaan sa pagtiyak na ligtas ang mga Filipino sa China at pinapayuhan na silang sumunod sa lahat ng regulasyon o batas na pinailiral ng pamahalaang China para makontrol at malabanan ang sakit at ang paglaganap nito kahit saan.

#### 300,000 OFW SA CHINA

Sinasabing may



NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

## N-COV VACCINE, GINAGAWA NA; MGA PINOY, CARRIER

300,000 overseas Filipino worker na nasa China. Tinatayang nasa 240,000 ang nasa Hong Kong lamang.

At libo-libo naman ang nakakalat sa Wuhan, Beijing, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Xiamen, Macao at iba pa.

Maaaring libo-libo ring turistang Pinoy ang nadamay sa mga lockdown o pagpapatigil o pagsasara ng lahat ng uri ng transportasyon sa iba't ibang bahagi ng China, kasama ang Hong Kong.

Kabilang sa mga isinasara ang mga panturistang lugar, mall at sinehan, eskwela, temple at simbahan, pier, paliparan, istasyon ng tren at bus at maging ang mga kalsada.

#### PINOY

#### ANG CARRIER

May ulat nang mga OFW na tinamaan ng N-CoV sa China.

Kaya sakaling may makauwi na mga Filipino mula sa Tsina, malamang na sila ang panggagalingan ng sakit na N-CoV gaya ng mga OFW sa Hong Kong na nahawaan na.

Hindi kasi natin pupwedeng tanggihan at pabalikin ang mga ito sa alinmang bahagi ng China na pinanggalingan nila.

Kaya naman, dapat talagang magbantay ang lahat ng mga Filipino sa loob at labas ng mga paliparan, pier at iba pang lugar na pupuntahan at uuwian ng mga galing sa Tsina.

Sakaling makalusot ang mga may dala ng N-CoV sa mga paliparan, pier at iba pang pasukan sa Pinas, dapat na magkusa ang mga pamilyang Pinoy na ipa-tsekap ang mga ito sa pinakamalapit na ospital.

Huwag nilang hayaang may mahawa at matatay.

Alalahanin na may mga gumagaling naman sa mga ginagamot na may sakit mula sa N-CoV kahit pa hindi sakto ang mga gamot na ginagamit.

Mahirap umasa na may darating sa atin na bakuna mula sa China o drug manufacturer mula sa iba pang bansa.

#### PINAS MAPAPARALISA

Napakahirap na dapuan tayo ng sakit dahil mapaparalisa ang ating buong bansa kung sa-ka-sakali.

Maalaala ninyo ang ginawa ng mga lalawigan, bayan at barangay ukol sa paglaganap ng African Swine Fever?

Isinara nila ang mga kalsada sa lahat ng mga baboy, karneng baboy at produktong baboy at dito nagkadalugi-lugi ang mga negosyante, biyahero at tinderero ng baboy.

Dahil buhay at kalusugan ng tao ang nakataya sa N-CoV, tiyak na mas istrikto ang gagawin.

Gusto ba nating titigil ang lahat ng biyahe ng mga eroplano, barko, bus, tren, pribadong sasakyan at magsarahan ang mga lalawigan ng kanilang mga kalsada?

Literal ang pagsasara sa tsina ng mga kalsada at hindi lamang checkpoint ang pinailiral.

Magsasara rin ang lahat ng mga lugar na panturista, mga lugar na may maraming tao gaya ng mga mall, eskwela, simbahan at marami pang iba.

Tanging ang hindi magsasara ay mga ospital, military at police camp, mga opisina ng gobyerno at katulad ng mga ito.

Buong bansa ang maaapektuhan kung sakali.

Kaya, mga Bro, ang pagtutulungan sa pagdiskubre sa mga may dala ng sakit, pagdadala ng mga ito sa mga ospital, pag-isolate o paghihiwalay sa mga ito sa iba at panggamot ay napakahalaga.

Huwag nating hayaang mabilis na kumalat ang sakit hanggang sa kulang na ang mga doktor, ospital at iba pa na mag-asikaso sa kanila na tiyak na magbubunga ng maraming kamatayan sa atin.

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