

DATE . 01-28 20

DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service

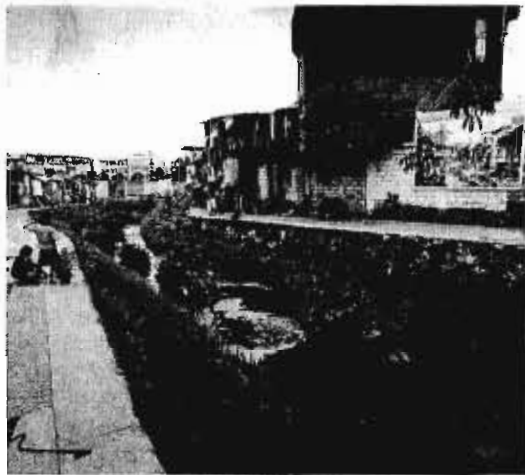


Maynilad kaakibat ng gobyerno sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay

Patuloy na nakikipagtulungan ang Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) sa malawakang inisyatibo na linsin 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 pagtanim 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 nagpatakbo na ang Maynilad ng 22 *wastewater treatment facilities* sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng *concession area* nito—mula sa dating dalawa lamang.



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

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.

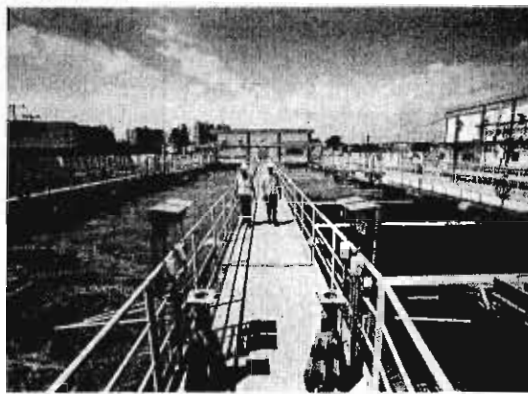
Samantala, patuloy ang pagbibigay ng *sanitation services* ng Maynilad sa mga *customer* na hindi pa konektado sa *sewerage network* nito. Mayroon itong tatlong ISO-certified Septage Treatment



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

Plants, at 89 *vacuum trucks* na umiikot sa buong West Zone para maglinis ng *septic tanks* ng *customers* kada lima hanggang pitong taon.

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



Patuloy ang panumuhunan ng Maynilad sa pagpapalayo ng mga bagong *wastewater treatment plant*, allsunod sa layunin nito na proleklahan ang mga katawang-lubig.

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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Maynilad



Battle for Manila Bay, Year One

At the Baseco Compound in Manila, the water along the shore has become clean enough for the bottom to be visible. This is one of the indications that the so-called Battle for Manila Bay is being won, however slow the progress might be, a year after the cleanup was launched.

The improvement of the water at Baseco was cited by those behind the ambitious cleanup campaign as they assessed the progress of the Battle for Manila Bay. Baseco in Manila's Port Area lies near the charcoal-making community called Ulingan in Tondo, which fiction writer Dan Brown described as the gate to hell in one of his popular novels.

Manila's port communities are among the city's poorest. Together with other informal settlers that make a living out of marginal fishing around Manila Bay, they contribute to the proliferation of solid waste and fecal coliform in the bay. But they are not the only sources of trash and other pollutants in the bay. Around Metro Manila, houses without sewer lines, industrial and commercial establishments

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also dump waste into the Pasig River and its tributaries,

all of which end up in the bay.

A year after the bay cleanup was launched, local government units in Metro Manila are pointing to cleaner waterways in their jurisdictions. At the same time, more water treatment plants are now in operation. There are still many areas, however, that can use improvement in solid waste management, and where waterways and drainage systems remain clogged with garbage.

Cleaning up Manila Bay requires a holistic approach that involves the cooperation of everyone down to the community level. Those involved in the Manila Bay cleanup have lamented that after every typhoon, tons of garbage continue to wash up along the shores, indicating little change in public attitudes and habits on garbage disposal.

A year after the government launched a campaign to clean up what has been described as a "gigantic septic tank," serious challenges persist. But the achievements offer hope that this battle can be won.



DA bares aquaculture plan for Manila Bay

By JASPER EMMANUEL Y. ARCALAS [@jearcalas](#)
& JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said it plans to rejuvenate fishing activities in Manila Bay as part of government's rehabilitation efforts in the area.

The DA said the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) will create a baseline information system "to identify when it is possible to raise and capture fish in Manila Bay."

The DA added that the BFAR would monitor weekly developments in the Manila Bay area, and establish an office for environmental issues and promote aqua farming in Metro Manila.

"*Basta may tubig, sana may isda* [If there's water, then there should be fish]," Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar said during the anniversary celebration of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program held at the Baseco Port Area on Sunday (January 26, 2020).

"We will work with other departments to clean up the water so that the fishes that thrive here will also be a source of livelihood for the

people," Dar added.

Dar noted that the fisheries sub-sector comprises a big chunk of the agriculture sector as it contributes almost 19 percent in gross value.

He added that areas in Metro Manila, Calabarzon region, and Central Luzon region are critical areas in bringing back into good state the condition of Manila Bay.

Dar has directed the Bureau of Soils and Water Management, and the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to strongly support the rehabilitation program with focus on liquid waste management, DA said.

In addition, the Bureau of Plant Industry, in partnership with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, will promote the DA's urban agriculture program, according to DA.

DA is one of the 13 government agencies, led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

(DENR), ordered by the Supreme Court Mandamus on Manila Bay to cleanup, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay.

Epic failure?

A FISHERFOLK organization on Monday described the Duterte administration's "Battle for Manila Bay" as a farce because of the campaign's alleged failure to reverse the deterioration of the historic bay's coastal and marine ecosystem.

Joel Falcis, spokesman of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakayang Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) in Cavite, said small fishers, particularly in the southern part in Cavite province, continue to endure the deteriorating quality and quantity of marine resources.

The group held a protest action in front of the DENR in Quezon City, which is spearheading the P4.7

billion, seven-year rehabilitation program to rehabilitate Manila Bay and restore its waters to pristine, swimmable state.

Pamalakaya has earlier questioned the DENR's decision to resume the public hearing for the massive land reclamation of Bacoor City. Other land reclamation projects are also threatening coastal and marine ecosystems in other parts of Manila Bay, where 22 of such destructive development projects are in various stages of the permitting process.

The protest action came a day after the DENR led the first year anniversary commemoration of Battle for Manila Bay in front of the Manila Yacht Club with the inauguration and ceremonial turn-on of a sewerage treatment plant (STP) and program at the Baseco Beach in Tondo, Manila.

During the event, Environment

Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the waters of Manila Bay is now in a much better state with the level of coliform bacteria going down dramatically over the past 12 months since the campaign started.

However, Falcis said the government failed to address the severe water pollution in Manila Bay, citing the fish kill that was observed in October last year in Parañaque and Las Piñas areas. Moreover, Falcis said even oyster and mussel farms are under attack by a parasitic shellfish locally called *bahong*.

A Cavite-based fisherman, Falcis argued that these are indications that the government's rehabilitation effort has failed miserably.

"If it's true that the waters of Manila Bay had improved, why are we experiencing fish kill and why are we troubled by pests?" he asked.



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Fishers group criticizes DENR over Manila Bay rehab claim

By Willie Casas

THE decrease of coliform levels in certain areas of Manila Bay does not equate to development of the rehabilitation, as it still does not address the sources of pollution that deteriorates its marine environment, a statement by the militant fishers' group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA) said.

PAMALAKAYA's statement was in reaction to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who announced that levels of fecal coliform bacteria in major outfalls draining into Manila Bay had "drastically decreased," one year after the government started its rehabilitation campaign.

PAMALAKAYA questioned the improvements claim of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which heads the 13-agency Manila Bay Task Force, saying "ecological and marine disturbances still occur in major fishing areas of the Manila Bay."

The group recalled the fish kill that hit the southern part of Manila Bay in October last year wherein at least two tons of fish were found floating dead, shellfish species were also affected by the fish kill.

"Ironically, the DENR has been brag-

ging about the improved water quality of Manila Bay and yet, ecological disturbances such as fish kill and constant depletion of fish catch arise. Thus, we raise the question on the effectivity of the government's ongoing rehabilitation drive that costs the public coffer a whopping amount of P42 billion," Fernando Hicap, PAMALAKAYA national chairperson, said.

PAMALAKAYA slammed the DENR secretary for "keeping mum" on reclamation projects pending and already approved across Manila Bay.

"Secretary Cimatu failed to include on his report that while rehabilitation is ongoing, several reclamation projects are underway, while some of the big-ticket reclamation projects are under the process of acquiring environmental permits and area clearances. These projects that run contrary to the essence of rehabilitation will prove that the government's rehabilitation per se is a sham," Hicap added.

PAMALAKAYA challenged the DENR to "check the waters where reclamation projects are ongoing as they are potential source of heavy metal substances and construction wastes," as well as to release a comprehensive report on the status of Manila Bay one year after the rehabilitation campaign.



Manila Bay reclamation, tinutulan

Nagpahayag ng suporta ang isang kongresista sa paninindigan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte laban sa reklamasyon ng 100 square kilometers ng Manila Bay.

Idinahilan ni Butil Party-list Rep. Lito Atienza, mayayaman o oligarchs lamang ang makikinabang sa nasabing sa reclamation at lalo lamang makakadagdag ng polusyon sa nasabing lugar.

Nitong nakaraang taon ay sinimulan ng gobyerno ang paglilinis at pangangalaga sa marine ecosystem ng Manila Bay.

Binigyang-diin ni Atienza, kailangang pasiglahin ang Manila Bay ecosystem at hindi dapat na patagin ito sa pamamagitan ng maraming proyektong pang-reklamasyon.

Bert de Guzman



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SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT. Inilnspeksiyon nina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu at Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chairman Danny Lim ang nagpapatuloy na konstruksiyon ng Sewage Treatment Plant sa kahabaan ng Roxas Boulevard sa Maynila. Ang konstruksiyon ng treatment plant ay bahagi ng programa ng pamahalaan na inilunsad noong nakaraang taon para linisin, i-rehabilitate, at pangalagaan ang Manila Bay.
PNA photo by Oliver Marquez



NO TO RECLAMATION

Members of various groups hold a rally to show their opposition to the planned reclamation project in Manila Bay. They claimed that the campaign to rehabilitate the bay was a failure. PHOTO BY JOHN ORVEN VERDOTE



Bulacan waters healthier a year after cleanup

Mayor in coastal town notes local fishers' improved catch amid rehab of coastlines, rivers linked to Manila Bay

OBANDO, BULACAN—Bulacan's waterways and coastlines are healthier and cleaner a year after Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu launched the "Battle for Manila Bay" cleanup drive, Central Luzon officials declared during the campaign's anniversary program on Sunday.

Government workers and volunteers collected 1.6 million kilos of waste during 1,036 cleanup operations along the 280-kilometer stretch of Manila Bay, said Wilson Trajeco, Central Luzon director of the Environmental Management Bureau.

The rivers that connect to the bay navigate the provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga and Bataan.

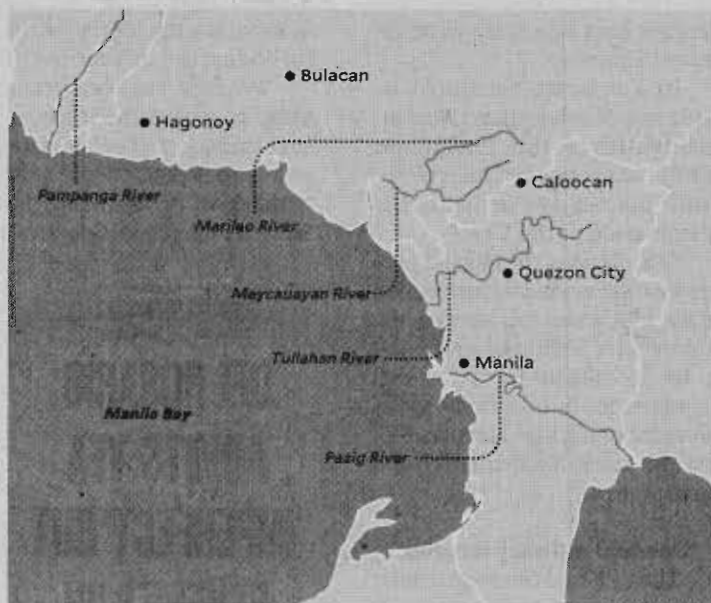
Bulacan has a 43.3-km coastline traversing Obando and the towns of Paombong, Bulakan and Hagonoy, as well as the City of Malolos.

Catchment area

A notable increase in fishermen's aquaculture catch proves that Bulacan's waters have improved, according to Obando Mayor Edwin Santos.

Obando is part of the Meycauayan-Marilao-Obando River System (MMORS) that has been described as one of the top 30

BULACAN WATERWAYS



INQ GRAPHICS

dirtiest rivers in the world.

The town is the catchment area for waste carried down by rivers and tributaries from Rizal province, the cities of Quezon and Caloocan in Metro Manila, the Bulacan city of San Jose del Monte and its neighboring towns of Sta. Maria, Bocaue and Bulakan.

"There used to be countless water lilies here and garbage was visible at our waters. But now, garbage has been reduced by half because of the daily cleanup we and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have been undertaking," Santos said.

The Obando government has enforced a strict antipollution ordinance and has begun improving the septage system of Barangay Salambao to reduce wastewater that is discharged into the bay area.

Training programs have also been put up for the local production of paper packages in order to eliminate single-use plastic bags, Santos said.

'Mission possible'

Pesticide flowing down the vegetable gardens of Benguet and Nueva Vizcaya provinces also contribute to the pollution at Manila Bay, said DENR Central Luzon director Paquito Moreno.

In 2019, the DENR inspected 675 factories along the MMORS and issued cease-and-desist orders to 57 of these manufacturing plants and notices of violation to 110 firms, said Emelita Lingat, DENR Bulacan provincial director.

"The mission impossible to clean up Manila Bay is now a mission possible," Moreno said. The Manila Bay cleanup complies with a 2016 writ of mandamus issued by the Supreme Court to make the bay fit for fishing and swimming.

—CARMELA REYES-ESTROPE INQ



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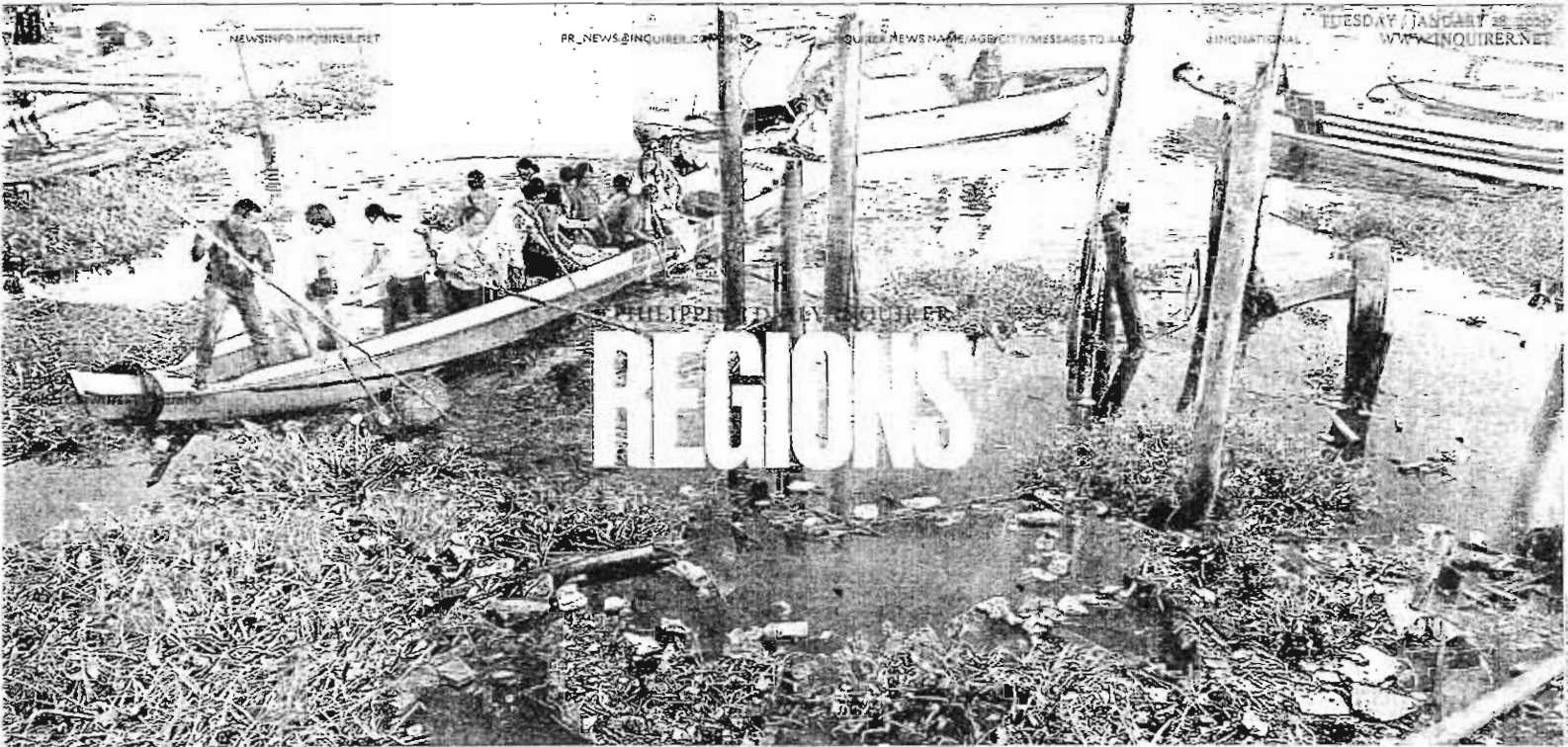
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CONTINUING DRIVE Volunteers from government and nongovernment groups continue clearing trash from the Tawiran River in Obando town, Bulacan province, as part of efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay.



Water level ng Angat Dam, bumaba

Bumaba ang lebel ng tubig ng Angat dam sa nakalipas na magdamag, ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Sa abiso ng Hydrology Division ng PAGASA, mula 203.33 metro nitong Linggo ay nasa 203.28 metro na lamang ang water level ng nasabing reservoir, kahapon.

Nabawasan din ang water level ng Ipo at La Mesa dam.

Pero bahagyang nagdagdagan naman ang imbak na tubig ng Ambuklao at Caliraya dams.

Naitala rin ng PAGASA ang pagbaba ng lebel ng tubig ng Binga, San Roque, Pantabangan at Magat dam.

Beth Camia



DENR to curb human activities, tourism on Taal Volcano Island

AS Taal Volcano continues to calm down with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) observing weaker volcanic activities since its phreatic eruption on January 12, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is

eyeing to impose stricter measures for the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape (TVPL).

The Taal Volcano, Taal Lake, and its surrounding watersheds are part of the TVPL and straddle 12 Batangas towns: Talisay, Malvar, Tanauan, Laurel, Agoncillo, Santa Teresita, Cuenca, Alitagtag, Mataas

na Kahoy, Lipa City, Balete and San Nicolas; and Tagaytay City in Cavite province.

The TVPL encompasses a total of 62,392 hectares by virtue of Proclamation 906, as signed by President Fidel V. Ramos on October 6, 1996.

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It is also on the list of protected areas upon the enactment of Republic Act 11308, or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System signed by President Duterte on July 24, 2017.

A tourism magnet, the volcano, lake and its surrounding environs have generated local employment. Many people have since decided to live on the volcano island itself, which is part of the tourism package offered by local government units (LGUs) in Batangas.

TVPL is also a place targeted for scientific research, being an active volcano with unique landscapes and volcanic features, including ecosystems.

Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon, concurrent director of the DENR's Biodiversity

Management Bureau (BMB), said with Phivolcs recommendation and Duterte's order to prohibit human habitation of the Taal Volcano island, the TVPL's Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) should, convene "as soon as possible" to carry out the order.

Calderon said the order declaring the entire island off limits for human settlement should be strictly observed from now on.

The DENR, through the BMB, has oversight authority over PAMBs, the highest policy-making or governing body over protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act.

"There should be limited tourism activities on the volcano island and a quick evacuation plan should be put in place in case of sudden volcanic eruption," he said. The airspace over Taal remains dangerous to aircraft, and Phivolcs advised the Civil Aviation Authority to effect necessary measures. **Jonathan L. Mayuga**



DENR urged to cancel order on WtE facilities

ENVIRONMENT-ADVOCATE groups yesterday urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to cancel an administrative order setting the guidelines for the establishment and operation of waste-to-energy (WtE) facilities.

The No Burn Pilipinas (NBP), EcoWaste Coalition and the Oceana Philippines made the call as they issued notice to sue to compel the DENR to rescind Department Administrative Order 2019-21 signed by Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu or they will file charges against the department.

The environmentalists have dismissed the DAO as "a euphemism for incineration or burning of solid waste."

The groups took turns in criticizing the WtE order and the gross inaction in phasing out non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging (NEAP) materials such as the ubiquitous single-use plastics (SUPs).

"By issuing the WtE guidelines, the DENR is renegeing on its constitutional and legal mandate to uphold the right

of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology being the primary agency tasked to enforce environmental laws, not violate them. In the last two decades, DENR has failed to ensure the full implementation of RA 9003 and RA 8749," said NBP lead counsel Atty. Aaron Pedrosa.

NBP senior campaign manager Glenn Ymata, on the other hand, pointed out that the DENR continues to defy the laws that mandate them to protect Filipinos from environmental harm and danger by proposing and allowing waste incineration, a quick-fix false solution to the country's waste problem.

Oceana Philippines vice president Atty. Gloria Estenzo-Ramos said it is high time the government exercised its powers and duties to untrash the oceans from millions of sachets, plastic bottles, straws and cutlery, and other SUPs thrown into it every second.

The government must stop and reduce the production of sources of plastics, Ramos added.

Cory Martinez



2019 EARTHQUAKE AFTERMATH

AETAS' RETURN TO LANDSLIDE-PRONE PAMPANGA VILLAGE BUCKED

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The prospect remained bleak for at least 117 Aeta families to return to their village in Porac town, Pampanga province, after they were displaced by the 6.1-magnitude earthquake that hit Central Luzon in April last year.

On Monday, Gov. Dennis Pineda turned down their plan to move back to Barangay Diaz, citing the geohazard assessment by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

Resettlement

The MGB had recommended the upland village, along with Barangay Nabuklod in Floridablanca town, to be a “no habitation zone” because of its “very high susceptibility” to landslides.

Juanilo dela Cruz, village chief of Diaz, said they wanted to come back because the area is part of their ancestral domain. “We also thought that the resettlement project would not push through,” he said during a dialogue at the provincial capitol.

Elizabeth Baybayan, provincial welfare officer, said the



DANGER ZONE The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) says the mountain village of Diaz in Porac town, Pampanga province, is susceptible to landslides, as shown by eroded roads leading to the Aeta community. —PHOTO COURTESY OF MGB CENTRAL LUZON

local government would still build a 2-hectare resettlement site in Barangay Babo Pangulo, also in Porac.

“The transfer of the title, procurement of materials and other processes are taking time according to government rules,” she said, referring to the delayed resettlement project.

Dela Cruz said they pre-

ferred a 1-ha site at the foothills of Babo Pangulo because it was near a river.

Pineda has organized a team to check the area and study its feasibility for a resettlement site.

At least 100 Aeta families from Barangay Inararo have been temporarily living at Barangay Villa Maria, also in Porac. Inararo is the nearest vil-

lage on the Pampanga side of Mt. Pinatubo, a volcano which last erupted on June 15, 1991.

The MGB also advised the Aetas of Inararo to stay in Villa Maria because of large cracks on the roads leading to the place.

The April 22 quake killed five people and injured nine workers of a supermarket that collapsed seconds after the ground shook.

—TONETTE OREJAS INQ



Tax court sides with Lepanto in refund case

THE Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) denied for lack of merit the appeal of the Bureau of Internal Revenue over the P12.8 million tax refund granted to a mining firm.

In a four-page resolution on Jan. 17, the court's second division said that records showed that Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. has valid zero-rated sales for 2015 which is the basis for its unutilized input value-added tax (VAT).

"Be that as it may, this Court has painstakingly scrutinized the evidence on record and has determined that petitioner has

valid zero-rated sales for calendar year 2015 and, furthermore, determined that petitioner incurred input taxes attributable thereto. As held in the assailed Decision," the resolution penned by Associate Justice Juanito C. Castañeda, Jr. read.

"In view of the foregoing, the Court finds no convincing reason to reverse or modify the Decision promulgated on September 23, 2019," it added.

The court in September partially granted the P14.9 million tax refund claim of Lepanto, allowing

only the amount of P12.8 million to be issued a tax credit certificate.

It said that the amount of P12.8 million can be traced to its valid zero-rated sales of P1.1 billion.

In its motion for partial reconsideration, the BIR said the court erred in finding that the company sufficiently established its claims for refund and that "direct connection between the purchases or input tax and the finished product whose sale is zero-rated as 'concrete' and not 'imaginary' or 'remote'" cannot be found in the decision.

The court ruled that Lepanto is not required to prove which among its purchases are directly attributable to zero-rated transactions and which are taxable transactions.

The tax appellate court said that Section 112(A) of the Tax Code provided that if a taxpayer's engaged in zero-rated or effectively zero-rated sales in taxable or exempt sales and the input taxes cannot be entirely traced to the sales, "the input taxes shall be allocated proportionately on the basis of the volume of sales."

— Vann Marlo Villegas



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RESCUED TARSIER

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 12 is looking at the presence of more tarsiers in the forests of Barangay Assumption, Koronadal City after the rescue of a tarsier in the area last week. The rescue of the primate indicates that tarsiers may also thrive in this part of South Cotabato. PHOTO COURTESY OF DENR-12



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NHA Builders back in semis

Games Sunday (Paco Arena)
3:30 p.m. - NHA vs Agriculture
5 p.m. - PITC vs Judiciary

National Housing Authority (NHA) booked a return trip to the semis with a thrilling 77-74 win over the Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC) last week in the 8th UNTV Cup at the Paco Arena in Manila.

Antonio Lustestica once again shone brightest for the Benneth Palad-mentored NHA Builders by firing 18 points on top of three rebounds and a steal.

NHA's win in the annual tournament for public servants assured itself of the No. 3 seeding no matter what happens in its last match in the quarterfinal round against the Department of Agriculture Food Masters on Sunday also at the Paco Arena.

The win likewise arranged for themselves a semis date with the No. 2 Department of Environment and Natural Resources Warriors.

The fourth and last semifinalist will be known on Sunday as the Food Masters made the race for the last semis berth doubly exciting with a surprising 71-68 victory over the two-time champions Judiciary Magis.



Builders book return trip to UNTV semis

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GAMES SUNDAY
(Paco Arena)
3:30 p.m. -- NHA vs. Agriculture
5 p.m. -- PTIC vs. Judiciary

Masters on Sunday also at the Paco Arena.

The win sent the Builders into a semis battle with No. 2 Department of Environment and Natural Resources Warriors.

The fourth and last semifinalist will be known on Sunday as the Food Masters made the race for the last semis berth doubly exciting with a surprising 71-68 victory over the two-time champions Judiciary Magis.

The Poch Junio-mentored Food Masters played minus several key players due to previous commitments but they still managed to prevail, thanks to the 23-point performance of Sherwin Silva.



UNTV: NHA back in semis

Games Sunday
(Paco Arena)

3:30 p.m. - NHA vs Agriculture
5 p.m. - PITC vs Judiciary

NATIONAL Housing Authority (NHA) booked a return trip to the semifinals with a thrilling 77-74 win over the Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) last week in the 8th UNTV Cup at the Paco Arena in Manila.

Antonio Lustestica once again shone brightest for the Benneth Palad-mentored NHA Builders by firing 18 points apart from posting three rebounds and a steal.

NHA's win in the annual tournament for public servants assured itself of the No. 3 seeding no matter what happens in its last match in the quarterfinal round against the Department of Agri-

culture Food Masters on Sunday also at the Paco Arena.

The win likewise arranged for themselves a semis date with the No. 2 Department of Environment and Natural Resources Warriors.

The fourth and last semifinalist will be known on Sunday as the Food Masters made the race for the last semis berth doubly exciting with a surprising 71-68 victory over the two-time champions Judiciary Magis.

The Poch Junio-mentored Food Masters played minus several key players due to previous commitments but they still managed to prevail - thanks to the 23-point performance of Sherwin Silva.

Agriculture's victory forged a three-way tie for second to fourth places with PITC and Judiciary - all with similar 6-5 records.

The fourth semifinalist will face top seed and defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines in the other semis pairing - also a best-of-three affair.

AFP and DENR advanced outright to the semis of the tournament organized by UNTV President and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon by finishing 1-2 in the two-phase elimination round.

First Game

DA (71) - Silva 23, Fernandez 14, Comercias 8, Dematera 8, Casaysayan 8, Mastelero 8, Hassan 2.

Judiciary (68) - Mustre 18, Tolomia 16, Ybanez 11, Malinao 8, Dela Cruz 7, Salamat 5, Litonjua 2, Serrano 1, Mrquez 0.

Quarterscores: 28-19, 41-30, 58-45, 71-68.

Second Game

NHA (77) - Lustestica 18, Vitug 17, Dizon 11, Mercado 9, W. Tibay 8, Crisostomo 6, R. Tibay 4, M. Dizon 2, Palad 2.

PITC (74) - Vassallo 21, Taplah 16, Lopez 11, Juan 8, Martin 7, Porto 6, Regalado 5.

Quarterscores: 23-19, 45-40, 57-58, 77-74.



Builders gain UNTV semis

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(Paco Arena)

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MARQUEZ

First Game

DA 71 - Silva 23, Fernandez 14, Comercias 8, Dematera 8, Casaysayan 8, Mastelero 8, Hassan 2.

JUDICIARY 68 - Mustre 18, Tolomia 16, Ybafiez 11, Malinao 8, Dela Cruz 7, Salamat 5, Litonjua 2, Serrano 1, Marquez 0.

Quarters: 28-19, 41-30, 58-45, 71-68.

Second Game

NHA 77 - Lustestica 18, Vitug 17, Dizon 11, Mercado 9, W. Tibay 8, Crisostomo 6, R. Tibay 4, M. Dizon 2, Palad 2.

PITC 74 - Vassallo 21, Taplah 16, Lopez 11, Juan 8, Martin 7, Porto 6, Regalado 5.

Quarters: 23-19, 45-40, 57-58, 77-74.



NHA Builders swak sa semifinals ng UNTV Cup

LARO SA LINGGO
(Paco Arena)
3:30 p.m. - NHA
vs Agriculture
5 p.m. - PITC
vs Judiciary

Muling nakapasok ang National Housing Authority sa semifinal round matapos kunin ang 77-74 panalo laban sa Philippine International Trading Corporation sa 8th UNTV Cup sa Paco

Arena sa Manila.

Nagpapatok si Antonio Lustestica ng 18 points bukod pa ang 3 rebounds at 1 steal para sa NHA Builders ni coach Benneth Palad.

Ang panalo ng NHA sa annual tournament para sa mga public servants ang tumiyak sa kanila sa pag-upo sa No. 3 anuman ang resulta ng kanilang huling laro sa quarterfi-

nals laban sa Department of Agriculture Food Masters sa Linggo.

Makakasagupa ng Builders sa semis ang No. 2 Department of Environment and Natural Resources Warriors.

Madetermina naman ang kukuha sa ika-apat at huling semis seat kung saan malakas ang tsansa ng Food Masters matapos ang 71-68 pag-

gupo sa two-time champions na Judiciary Magis.

Tumipa si Sherwin Silva ng 23 markers para isabit ang Agriculture sa three-way tie para sa second hanggang fourth places kasama ang PITC at Judiciary.

Nakapasok sa semis ang AFP at DENR sa torneong inorganisa ni UNTV President at CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.



Thunberg vs Trump

With the theme “Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World,” billionaires, world leaders and other movers and shakers gathered last week at the ski resort town of Davos, Switzerland, for the 50th World Economic Forum (WEF). The annual meeting has been described as the place where billionaires tell millionaires how the middle classes should live their lives. It is remarkable that WEF’s organizers chose to focus this year’s discussions on cohesion and sustainability, even as its participants tend to be seen as the very impediments to the chosen themes. They even invited Greta Thunberg, the now-famous Swedish youngster who has gained worldwide prominence for scolding world leaders in various forums for lack of meaningful action on climate change.

But days after Thunberg delivered her now familiar strident message in Davos, US President Donald Trump indirectly rebuked her as he lashed out at “prophets of doom” and “alarmists” out to “dominate, transform, and control every aspect of our lives.” His statement virtually reaffirms what his predecessor George W. Bush once said in rejecting the Kyoto Protocol on climate change: “The American way of life is non-negotiable.”

The problem is that this so-called American way of life is widely seen, in and out of America, as highly unsustainable and harmful to the planet. There is simply no way that the earth can sustain the American consumerist lifestyle that is fast spreading around the globe as economies and incomes grow and people worldwide emulate their energy-gobbling and waste-ballooning practices. Increasingly unsustainable



NO FREE LUNCH

CIELITO F. HABITO

lifestyles have become part of developing economies’ transition to higher income status, with energy consumption growing way faster than overall economic growth—and climate change is one of its undesired results.

As the WEF highlighted the topic this year, three premises on climate change are widely accepted and well-established by science: One, climate change is happening and is a global problem. Two, global warming is causing climate change. Three, global warming is resulting from continued emission into the atmosphere of “greenhouse gases” (GHG) arising from human economic activities, including carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and nitrous oxide.

CO₂ and other GHG emissions come primarily from the burning of fossil fuels such as petroleum and coal in power generation, industrial processes, and operation of motor vehicles. Atmospheric CO₂ also rises with large-scale destruction of forests, inasmuch as plants use up CO₂ and emit oxygen. Agricul-

tural processes, such as burning of rice stalks, also emit methane and nitrous oxide, which are likewise emitted from the natural degradation of various wastes. All these come from escalating economic production, especially with the accompanying rise in energy consumption.

This is why the United States is so prominent in the climate change debates. And yet it is also the biggest recalcitrant in the climate change fight, with Trump seemingly even refusing to believe in climate change at all. The world is also watching Asia, home of many rapidly growing economies, and emerging to be the focal point of the global economy in the 21st century. With such economic growth comes rapidly increasing energy consumption, and the Philippines is no exception. Our sales of motor vehicles and electrical appliances, and residential electric power consumption have been growing in the double digits since the 1990s. All this happened while our economic growth ranged within 4-7 percent.

It is estimated that we would need nine earths to sustain the world’s rapidly growing energy appetite at its current pace. It is clear that business as usual simply won’t do, and there is a need for a significant change in lifestyles, whether in the large affluent economies or in emerging economies like ours. As for Trump and Thunberg, Time magazine chose the latter as its 2019 Person of the Year, while Trump expressed apparent jealousy in Davos for this. Unfortunately for him, Time and more of the world’s people appear to see Thunberg to be more worthy of serious attention.

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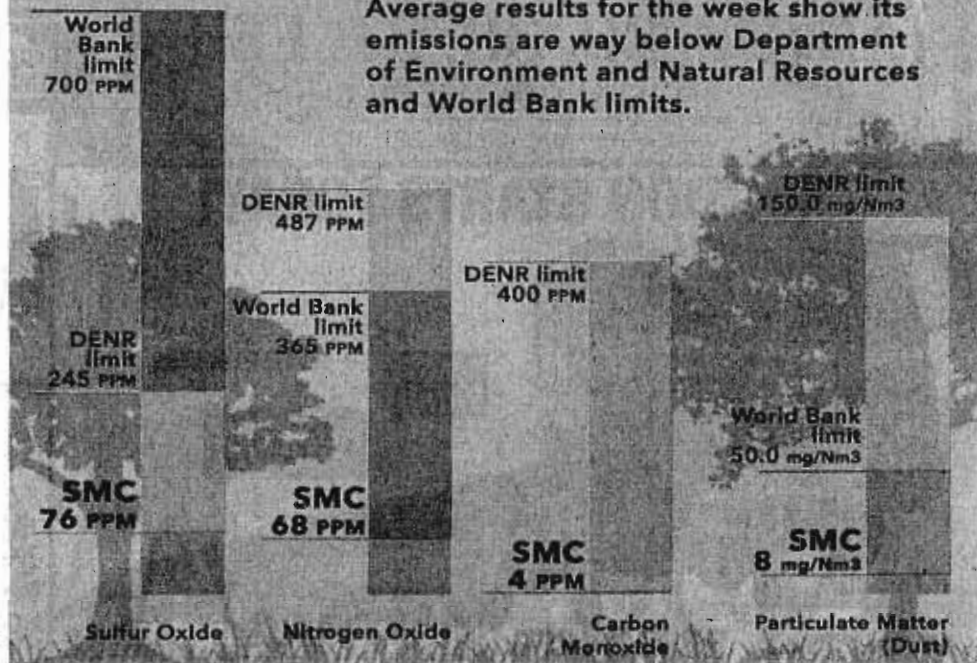


SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

WEEKLY ENVIRONMENT WATCH

January 20-26, 2020

San Miguel Corporation's Limay CFB (Circulating Fluidized Bed) power plant undergoes daily emission testing. Average results for the week show its emissions are way below Department of Environment and Natural Resources and World Bank limits.





NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

HINDI magandang balita ang ukol sa Novel Corona Virus o N-Cov.

Sa lumalabas na mga video mula sa China, basta na lang nabubuwal, ang ilan namamatay, kung saan-saan ang mga tinatamaan ng N-CoV.

Meron ding mga sinusundo ng mga ambulansya pero paglabas nito para sana ipasok sa ospital ay balot na ng mga kumot at nangangahulugang patay na ang biktima.

Simula nang may mamatay nitong Enero 10, 2020, paisa-isa lang ang biktima sa loob ng limang araw at pagkatapos nito, naging dalawa at higit na araw-araw.

Kamakalawa, nasa 56 ang iniulat nang patay pero kahapon, mahigit nang 80.

Naging 3,000 na rin ang napatunayang nagkakasakit.

MILYONES ANG NANGANGAMBA

Natural na sanlak-

sa ang nangangamba o buong China at Hong Kong na may 1.400 bil-yong mamamayan.

Ayon sa mga awtoridad sa China; batay sa rekord, may 3,000 nang napatunayang may N-CoV, 6,000 ang pinagsususpetsahan pa lamang at mahigit 30,000 ang ginagamot. Sa ibang ulat, may 350,000 nang nahawahan.

Pero para makontrol ang paglaganap ng nakamamatay na sakit, lahat na ng mga transportasyong panlupa, panghimpapawid at pandagat ay itinigil sa mga lugar na apektado ng epidemya, kasama na ang Hong Kong.

Kasama sa aksyon ng China ang pagpospon ng Chinese New Year sa Pebrero upang mapigilan ang pagbiyahe ng mga tao sa loob at labas ng nasabing bansa.

Sa ngayon, mahigit nang 30 milyong tao nakalockdown, gaya ng pinalaral na lockdown sa Bata-

MAGSASAMANTALA SA FACE MASK SA N-COV, LABANAN

ngas at Cavite nang pumutok ang Bulkang Taal.

Kasama na sa mga napagsarhan ng mga biyahe ang mga eroplano, tren, bus, pribadong sasakyan, barko, lantsa at iba pa.

Napag-alaman na ring maraming turistang dayuhan ang nadadamay ngayon sa mga lockdown at ang mga pamahalaan ng mga dayuhan ay kumikilos na para ilabas at ilipad ang mga ito.

Maaaring may mga Filipino ring turista ang natamaan ng lockdown at sila'y dapat ayudahan ng ating pamahalaan.

11 SA PINAS

May 11 nang pinagsususpetsahang may N-CoV sa Pilipinas.

Ang tawag sa mga ito ay Persons Under Investigation. May kasaysayan silang lahat na nakapunta sa Wuhan bago sila dumating sa Pinas.

Isinasagawa ng Research Institute for Tropical Medicine ang pagsusuri sa mga pasyenteng ito.

Lahat sila ay dayuhan at nakakalat sa iba't ibang lugar.

Meron Metro Manila (2), Mimaropa (1), Northern Mindanao (1), Western Visayas (3), Eastern Visayas (1) and Central Visayas (3).

Ayon sa DOH, habang wala pang kumpirmasyon mula sa Australia kung magpositibo ang mga ito, mananatili ang mga ito sa quarantine.

Sa quarantine area, hindi sila pupwedeng lumabas at mamasyal o dalawin nang personal ng mga kamag-anak.

Hindi rin sila pupwedeng umuwil.

FACE MASK ULIT

Matapos ang karambola sa face mask laban sa mga usok, abo at asupre ng Bulkang Taal, may karambola ulit ngayon dito.

Marahil ay mas matindi ang karambola sa face mask ngayon dahil pwedeng panlaban ang mga ito sa napatunayang nang nakamamatay na sakit.

Lahat ng ayaw mamatay ay bibili at bibili ng face mask.

Ang tanong ngayon: may sapat bang face

mask, lalo na ang mga magagandang klase at nagtatagal?

Ang mga surgical mask o ordinaryong mask kasi ay pang-ilang oras lang.

Pero ang katulad ng N-95 na pinakamaganda sa pagsala sa anomang malalanghap ng tao ay nagtatagal.

Kapag nagpunta ba ang mga mamamayan sa mga tindahan ng face mask, magkakaroon pa rin ba ng overpricing.

Meron din bang hoarding pagtatago para magiging mahal ang mga ito kung may karambola na sa pagbili nito?

Meron ding mga scalper o namamakyaw ng mga face mask para ibenta lang ito nang mahal sa mga mamamayan?

TRIPLE ANG PRESYO

Pagputok ng Bulkang Taal, agad na nangailangan ang mga tao ng face mask.

Anak ng tokwa, ang P50-P75 kada pirasong N95 ay naging P200-P400 ang isa.

Ang surgical o ordinaryong face mask na isang carton at may lamang 50 piraso ay biglang naging P150-P200 mula sa P50-P60 kada karton.

May ilang eskwelang Filipino Chinese ang sinusindehan ng klase, lalo na sa Lung-sod ng Maynila.

Libo-libo ang mga estudyante rito at tiyak na mapipilitan silang gumamit ng face mask bilang proteksyon laban sa N-CoV.

Tiyak din na nangailangan ng face mask ang mga mamamayan na malapit sa mga ospital at quarantine area na kinaroroonan ng mga PUI.

Tiyak na tutulad din ang iba sa pagsusuot ng face mask.

Ang tanong ngayon: magkakaroon din ba ng overpricing ng mga face mask tulad ng nangyari nang pumutok ang Bulkang Taal?

Naibigay na natin ang mga presyo, mga Bro, lalo na ang presyong Bambang sa lung-sod ni Yorme Isko.

Magtulong-tulong tayong magbantay at umaksyon laban sa mga mapagsamantala.

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