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**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

**Strategic Communication and Initiative Service**



**'PROJECT: KUBETA KO'**

# PAROLA RESIDENTS TO RECEIVE 400 PORTABLE TOILETS

**By Jhesset O. Enano**  
@JhessetEnanoINQ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has inked an agreement with the Manila City government, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and private water concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. to provide temporary sanitation facilities to the Parola area in Tondo, one of the most depressed areas in the capital.

Under "Project: Kubeta Ko," at least 400 portable, container-based toilets will be provided to informal settler families to address the human waste problem in Manila Bay.

Both the DENR and the Manila City government earlier identified Parola as an "open defecation hotspot," with many residents who live in stilt houses openly dumping their waste into the heavily polluted bay.

Under the memorandum of agreement, the DENR will extend P10 million in financial assistance to the city government, with a contribution of \$160,000 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

This will cover the project implementation, including operational costs, for one year.

The local government is expected to install, test and maintain the facilities and orient the residents.

The MWSS, on the other hand, will monitor the project and provide necessary assistance while Maynilad will be responsible for waste treatment.

The Department of Health said last year that some 3.5 million Filipinos did not have sanitary toilets. Of this number, the majority live in Metro Manila. INQ



# 'PAGDUMI' SA MANILA BAY P.2 WAWAKASAN NG DENR, ATBP



**PORTABLE TOILETS PARA SA MGA ISF SA PAROLA-** Nakikinig sina Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu at Manila Mayor Francisco Domagoso habang ipinaliliwanag ni WaterLinks Executive Director Mai Flor ang sistema ng portable toilet na ipamimigay sa ISFs sa Parola Compound sa Tondo, Maynila kasunod ng nilagdaan nilang MOA. Nasa larawan din sina (mula kaliwa) Executive Assistant to the Mayor on Special Projects in Manila Joy Dawis-Asuncion, Manila Barangay Bureau Director Romeo Bagay at Loowatt Chief Executive Officer Virginia Gardiner.

## 'PAGDUMI' SA MANILA BAY WAWAKASAN NG DENR, ATBP

**MAKIKIPAGTULUNGAN** ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa lokal na pamahalaang lungsod ng Maynila na pinamumunuan ni Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso, water concessionaire Maynilad at Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System para mawakasan na ang ginagawang "pagdumi" ng mga tao na ginagawang palikuran ang Manila Bay.

Kamakailan ay pinangunahan ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang paglagda sa memorandum of agreement para sa implementasyon ng "Project: Kubeta Ko," na layuning mabigyan ng pansamantalang palikuran ang informal settler families sa Parola Compound, Tondo na isa sa pinakamahirap na pamayanan sa Manila.

Ang Parola Compound ay tinukoy ng DENR at ng Manila City government na "open defecation hotspot" dahil walang pakundangan ang mga naninirahan dito na "dumumi" sa katubigan ng Manila Bay.

"With this project, we will be able to change the culture of ISFs, so that they will be able to excrete wastes privately and in a dignified manner, while contributing to the eventual cleanliness of Manila Bay," sabi ni Cimatu na namumuno ng itinatag na task force ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte para sa rehabilitasyon ng naturang baybayin.

Ang pagdumi na lantad sa publiko ay hindi lamang nakabababa sa pagkatao bagkus ito rin ay masamang kagawian dahil nakadudumi ito sa kapaligiran at masama ang naidudulot nito sa kalusugan.

Dahil din sa masamang gawain na ito ay maaaring kumalat ang mga sakit tulad ng diarrhea, cholera at iba pang waterborne diseases, intestinal worm infection, malnutrition at pagkabansot ng mga bata.

Sa pamamagitan ng "Project: Kubeta Ko," 400 units ng portable, container-based toilet ay bibilhin at pananatilihin para sa mga ISFs sa Parola Compound.

Nakapaloob sa MOA na ang DENR ay maglalaan ng P10 million financial assistance sa Manila City government, dagdag pa dito ang UD\$ 160,000 mula sa Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, para sa implementasyon ng proyekto kabilang ang operational costs ng mga toilet units sa loob ng isang taon.

Bilang procuring entity at beneficiary ng proyekto, nakaatas sa pamahalaan ng Maynila na tiyaking ang mga nadeliver na toilet units ay maayos na "installed, tested and maintained."

Inaasahan din ito na magsagawa ng social preparation activities sa Parola at sigraduhin ang kooperasyon ng mga benepisyaryo ng proyekto.

Ang Maynilad ang responsable sa paglilinis ng dumi na mula sa toilet units at ang MWSS ang mamamahala sa monitoring at pagbibigay ng tulong sa mga kasama sa MOA.

Bukod kay Cimatu, lumagda rin sa MOA sina Mayor Isko Moreno, Maynilad president at CEO Ramoncito Fernandez at MWSS Administrator Emmanuel Salamat. JR at SC



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**Portable toilets** Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, left, and Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso, right, listen as WaterLinks director Mai Flor, second from left, explains how a portable toilet works. The toilets will be given to informal settler families at the Parola Compound in Tondo identified as an open defecation hotspot. DENR PHOTO



# DENR moves to stop defecation in Manila Bay

**BY JED MACAPAGAL**

GOVERNMENT is taking steps to address the serious problem of open defecation in Manila Bay.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has forged an agreement with the Manila City government, water concessionaire Maynilad and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to address the problem.

The agreement will implement

the "Project: Kubeta Ko" to provide 400 units of portable, container-based toilet facilities to informal settler families (ISFs) in the Parola area in Tondo, Manila, which has been identified as a hotspot since its residents are notorious for openly defecating into the waters of Manila Bay.

"With this project, we will be able to change the culture of ISFs so that they will be able to excrete wastes privately and in a dignified manner, while contributing to the eventual cleanliness

of Manila Bay," environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a statement.

Under the agreement, the DENR will extend P10 million in financial assistance to the Manila City government, with a \$160,000 contribution from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, for the implementation of the project, including the operational costs for one year.

The local government of Manila, as the procuring entity and beneficiary of the project, is tasked

to ensure that the delivered goods will be properly installed, tested and maintained. It is also expected to perform social preparation activities in Parola and ensure the cooperation of target beneficiaries in the implementation of the undertaking.

On the other hand, Maynilad will be responsible for the treatment of waste to be generated, while MWSS will be in charge of monitoring the project and providing necessary assistance to the parties.



## DENR identifies open defecation hotspot

**THE defecation problem in Manila Bay will soon end.**

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu assured this yesterday after identifying the Parola area in Tondo as an "open defecation hotspot" where residents leave their human wastes in the waters of Manila Bay.

The DENR joined forces with the Manila City government, water concessionaire Maynilad and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and signed a memorandum of agreement to provide the informal settler families (ISFs) in Tondo with temporary sanitation facilities through "Kubeta Ko" project.

The implementation of project "Kubeta Ko" in one of Manila's most depressed communities will somehow change the culture of the ISFs who directly throw their wastes into the waters.

"With this project, we will be able to change the culture of ISFs, so that they will be able to excrete wastes privately and in a dignified manner, while contributing to the eventual cleanliness of Manila Bay," said Cimatu, who heads the task force formed by President Rodrigo Duterte to facilitate the rehabilitation of the heavily polluted water body.

Open defecation is not only an affront to dignity, but also a dangerous practice that directly pollutes the waters of Manila Bay, and cause health problems.

**Joel dela Torre**



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# PHL only has 10 percent of needed sanitary landfills, says DENR exec

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

**T**WENTY years after the enactment of Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, the Philippines has managed to build only a total of 108 sanitary landfills nationwide, or 10 percent of what is actually needed, and a far cry from the estimated 1,700 requirement for the proper disposal of garbage, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

The DENR hopes to put up more sanitary landfills before President Duterte's term ends in 2022.

Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Govern-

ment Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda said the sanitary landfill is the primary long-term method of solid waste disposal allowed under the law.



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Antiporda issued the statement as the DENR spearheaded a cleanup drive at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetlands Park (LPPWP), formerly called Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA) on Friday to culminate the celebration of January as Zero-Waste Month.

The event was also attended by Sen. Cynthia Villar, Parañaque Rep. Eric Olivarez, Philippine National Police Maritime Group Director Police Brig. Gen. R'win Pagkalinawan, and NSWMC Vice Chairman Crispian Lao.

An engineered sanitary landfill is required in any LGU as a means of safe disposal of untreated solid waste, or recovery of residual wastes, Antiporda said.

Unfortunately, the DENR official said, the number of sanitary landfills in the country remains inadequate.

"What we need in this country is about 1,700 sanitary landfills for all the municipalities and cities. But, sad to say, we only have 108 as of the moment and this number

could even decrease in the future," Antiporda lamented.

Worse, he added, many of the country's sanitary landfills are nearly full or reaching maximum capacity. If this happens, he said, some LGUs might go back to operating open dump site, which is illegal under RA 9003.

"We will not allow this to happen," he said.

Under the leadership of Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, Antiporda said, the DENR will do everything to ensure the establishment of more sanitary landfills.

Cimatu had earlier ordered Antiporda, in his capacity as NSWMC head, to "review and revise" DENR Administrative Order 2001-34, or the implementing rules and regulations of RA 9003, to make the establishment and operation of a sanitary landfill easier and less expensive.

The DENR chief noted that a lot of LGUs find it difficult to comply with the law as building and maintaining a sanitary landfill can be costly and somewhat complicated.

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.

In constructing more sanitary landfills, the DENR is also eyeing to close down more than 300 open dumps across the country, the operation of which has since been declared illegal by the garbage law.

Aside from pushing for proper solid waste management through reduction, recycling and reuse of wastes, the DENR is also eyeing to promote waste-to-energy as a solution to the garbage problem although this strategy is being met with strong opposition by environmental groups who insisted that the use of waste incineration is by law, specifically Republic Act 8745, or the Philippine Clean Air Act, is strictly prohibited.





## EDITORIAL

### Need for landfills

AN erring local government unit (LGU) should pronto set up an engineered sanitary landfill as required by Republic Act (RA) No. 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

It is certainly lamentable and saddening that there are only 108 sanitary landfills in the Philippines, a nation of more than 100 million people, although the legislation has been in effect more than 20 years ago.

Under the landmark law, an LGU is mandated to establish its own sanitary landfill as a means of safe disposal of untreated solid waste, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"What we need in this country is about 1,700 sanitary landfills for all the municipalities and cities. But, sad to say, we only have 108...and this number could even decrease," said DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda.

But Antiporda, a former newspaperman, was quick to assure the public that the DENR under Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, a retired military general, is determined to build more sanitary landfills before June 30, 2022.

"Napupuno po ang ating mga sanitary landfill and what happens next is some (LGUs) might go back to open dumpsite, which is illegal under RA No. 9003. We will not allow this to happen," said Antiporda.

Note that under the Philippine Constitution, tough-talking President Duterte's six-year administration, which started in June 2016, ends at 12 noon on June 30, 2022.

In the view of many, including local government officials of impoverished towns in the country, the establishment of a sanitary landfill is better said that done because of various factors

No less than the DENR secretary acknowledged that a lot of LGUs find it difficult to comply with the law as building and maintaining a sanitary landfill can be costly and somewhat complicated.

That's why Cimatu ordered Antiporda to review and revise the implementing rules and regulations of RA No. 9003 to make the setting up of a sanitary landfill easier and less expensive.

We are all for this.



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# Maynilad pours P1.1B into 'Adopt an Estero' program

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**  
@RonWDomingoINQ

Maynilad Water Services Inc. is investing about P1.1 billion to augment government efforts to clean up waterways that drain out to Manila Bay.

The amount is earmarked for Maynilad's "Adopt an Estero" initiative, under which the company will, over three

years, help rehabilitate Estero dela Reina, Estero de Sunog Apog, Estero de Magdalena, Estero de Concordia, and Estero de San Antonio Abad.

The efforts involve the laying of around 10 kilometers of sewer lines to catch wastewater flow from Maynilad customers residing along the creeks, who could not be served by individual sewer connections.

The collected wastewater will then be diverted to the nearest sewer network of Maynilad. The project is expected to benefit some 62,000 people.

"Even as we install the sewer lines that will prevent wastewater from flowing directly to esteros, we seek the help of all local government units to ensure that solid waste does not pollute these

same esteros that we are trying to clean," Maynilad president and chief executive Ramoncito S. Fernandez said in a statement.

"This would render our investment in the wastewater infrastructure useless," Fernandez said.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System's concessionaire for the West

Zone first launched this initiative in November 2018 and, since then, has installed 323 meters of interceptor pipes along Estero dela Reina that benefit more than 5,300 residents in the area.

Earlier, the MWSS said construction of interceptor pipes and other facilities in the esteros was among the components of the alignment project being undertaken by the Pasig

River Rehabilitation Commission and Maynilad.

Project implementation is from 2018-2020 which will benefit 8,456 households in Estero dela Reina; 1,221 in Estero de Sunog Apog; 1,441 in Estero Magdalena; and 287 in Estero de Concordia. The generated wastewater will be treated in Maynilad's Tondo Sewage Pumping Plant. INQ



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# Maynilad to spend P1.1 B for Mla Bay rehab

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

West zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. has earmarked P1.1 billion over the next three years to help rehabilitate Manila Bay.

Maynilad said the amount would be used to rehabilitate five *esteros* in Manila, which are part of the waterways that drain out to Manila Bay.

The company's Adopt an Estero initiative will cover Estero dela Reina, Estero de Sunog Apog, Estero de Magdalena, Estero de Concordia and Estero de San Antonio Abad.

Maynilad will lay around 10 kilometers of sewer lines to catch wastewater flow from Maynilad customers along creeks that cannot be served by individual sewer connections.

The collected wastewater will then be diverted to the nearest sewer network of Maynilad. The project is expected to benefit some 62,000 people.

"Even as we install the sewer lines that will prevent wastewater from flowing directly to *esteros*, we seek the help

of all local government units to ensure that solid waste does not pollute these same *esteros* that we are trying to clean. This would render our investment in the wastewater infrastructure useless," Maynilad president and chief executive officer Ramoncito Fernandez said.

Since Maynilad launched its estero rehab initiative in November 2018, it has completed the installation of 323 meters of interceptor pipes along Estero dela Reina, which already benefits over 5,300 residents in the area.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has reported significant improvements in the water quality of major outfalls directly draining into Manila Bay a year after the pollution-challenged water body started undergoing rehabilitation.

Before the rehabilitation kicked off on Jan. 26 last year, the DENR recorded extremely high fecal coliform levels from major Manila Bay outfalls.

President Duterte has allocated P42.95 billion for the implementation of the Manila Bay rehabilitation project within three years

with at least 13 government agencies are working together to carry out the mission.



# Maynilad allots P1.1B for Manila *estero* rehab

BY JORDEENE B. LAGARE

**M**AYNILAD Water Services Inc. on Tuesday said it would invest about P1.1 billion over the next three years to rehabilitate five *esteros* in Manila to support the government's efforts to clean-up waterways that drain out to Manila Bay.

Under its Adopt an Estero initiative, Maynilad will rehabilitate Estero dela Reina, Estero de Sunog Apog, Estero de Magdalena, Estero de Concordia and Estero de San Antonio Abad.

This involves laying of around 10 kilometers of sewer lines to

catch wastewater flow from Maynilad customers along the creeks who could not be served by individual sewer connections.

The collected wastewater will then be diverted to the nearest sewer network of Maynilad, benefiting about 62,000 people.

"Even as we install the sewer lines that will prevent wastewater from flowing directly to *esteros*, we seek the help of all local government units to ensure that solid waste does not pollute these same *esteros* that we are trying to clean. This would render our investment in the wastewater infrastructure useless," Maynilad President and Chief Executive Officer Ramoncito Fernandez said in a statement.

Since the inception of its *estero* rehab initiative in November 2018, Maynilad has completed the installation of 323 meters of interceptor pipes along Estero dela Reina. More than 5,300 residents in the area benefited from this project.

The initiative is part of Maynilad's comprehensive plan to help clean up Manila Bay and all the tributaries feeding it.

Maynilad, majority owned by Pangilinan-led Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), is the agent and contractor of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) that services portions of Manila, Quezon City, and Makati City as well as the cities of Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon in the metropolis.

It also services the cities of Cavite, Bacoor and Imus as well as the towns of Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, all in Cavite province.



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## Maynilad to invest P1B to rehab esteros

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# Maynilad to invest P1B to rehab esteros

WEST Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. is investing P1.1 billion over a period of three years to rehabilitate five esteros in Manila, in support of government efforts to clean-up waterways that drain out to Manila Bay.

The company said esteros in Manila that will be part of the program include dela Reina, Sunog Apog, de Magdalena, de Concordia and de San Antonio Abad.

Maynilad will lay around 10 kilometers of sewer lines to catch waste-

water flow from customers along the creeks who could not be served by individual sewer connections.

The collected wastewater will then be diverted to the nearest sewer network of Maynilad to benefit some 62,000 people.

Since the company launched its estero rehab initiative in November 2018, it has completed the installation of 323 meters of interceptor pipes along Estero dela Reina, which benefits over 5,300 residents in the area.



### **Maynilad earmarks P1.1B for estero rehab**

MAYNILAD Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) is investing around P1.1 billion over a period of three years to rehabilitate five esteros in Manila, an effort to support government's project to clean-up waterways that drain out to Manila Bay.

Maynilad's "Adopt an Estero" initiative—which covers Estero dela Reina, Estero de Sunog Apog, Estero de Magdalena, Estero de Concordia, and Estero de San Antonio Abad—involves the laying of around 10 kilometers of sewer lines to catch wastewater flow from Maynilad customers along the creeks who could not be served by individual sewer connections. The collected wastewater will then be diverted to the nearest sewer network of Maynilad. The project is expected to benefit some 62,000 people.

Since Maynilad launched its estero rehab initiative in November 2018, it has completed the installation of 323 meters of interceptor pipes along Estero dela Reina, which already benefits over 5,300 residents in the area.

This initiative is part of Maynilad's comprehensive plan to help clean up the Manila Bay and all the tributaries feeding to it.



## Manila Water touts desludging efforts

MORE than 200,000 households benefited from the septic tank cleaning services of Manila Water Co. Inc. last year, the listed firm said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the Ayala-led utility said over 212,125 households availed of its desludging services from January to December this year.

During the period, the company emptied and cleaned 117,441 septic vaults within the East Zone concession area.

Manila Water desludged 17,638 septic tanks in November last year alone, benefiting 27,186 households compared to 14,150 septic tanks in December which benefitted an equivalent of

19,591 households.

Manila Water Corporate Strategic Affairs head Jeric Sevilla Jr. said with respect to wastewater effluent quality, Manila Water performed better than the regulatory target, achieving 100-percent compliance with the 95-percent Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Wastewater Effluent Quality Standards for the last two months of 2019.

Sevilla also reiterated the importance of regular cleaning of septic tanks every five years not only to promote hygiene and sanitation within the households but also to prevent untreated used water from directly flowing to various

waterways thereby reducing, if not eliminating, pollution of water bodies such as creeks and rivers that ultimately drain into Manila Bay.

Customers seeking to avail of Manila Water's septic tank cleaning need not to pay additional costs and are advised to coordinate with their respective *barangays* for the schedules.

Manila Water is the exclusive provider of water, sewerage and sanitation, distribution services, pipeworks and management services to residential, commercial and industrial customers in the eastern part of Metro Manila and Rizal.

**JORDEENE B. LAGARE**



## Tubig ng Angat dam, umangat

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

Binanggit ng hydrometeorology division ng PAGASA, nasa 202.48 meters na ang water level ng nasabing water reservoir kahapon, mas mataas kumpara sa naitalang 202.44 meters

nitong Lunes.

Bahagya namang nabawasan ang antas ng tubig ng La Mesa dam na nasa 77.78 meters kahapon na mas mababa sa

77.80 meters nito noong Lunes.

Nabawasan din ang water level ng Ipo, Binga, San Roque, Pantabangan, Magat at Caliraya dams.

**Beth Camia**



## MGB issues rules on maintenance of closed mines

BY JED MACAPAGAL

THE Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has issued a memorandum order on the guidelines needed to implement care and maintenance programs (CMPs) for mines that have stopped operations.

The order signed January 10 by MGB acting director Wilfredo Moncano said mining tenements that are under voluntary stoppage or suspension should implement a CMP to ensure the integration of environmental protection and stakeholder involvement in every stage of mine operations.

This would also ensure workers affected by mine closures will continue to have cash allowance or gainful employment, depending on the approved CMP while the mining companies are implementing corrective measures



**Workers' welfare.** The CMP would ensure workers affected by mine closures will continue to have cash allowance or gainful employment.

relative to their suspension.

The MGB said CMPs should include the identification of safety and health hazard aside from environmental and social impacts. Mitigating measures and the budget to implement such should also be detailed in the CMP.

Contractors and permit holders are compelled to submit their CMP for MGB's approval as it will protect workers especially in cases of operational constraints including dispute with surface owners or work force, peace and order issue, flooding, fire, massive landslide and other natural or man-made calamities.

The program will also kick in when a mining operation is stopped due to non-conformances with regulatory provisions

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### MGB

and other laws.

A CMP will be effective for three months if the reason for stoppage or closure is voluntary. A CMP is implemented indefinitely if the reason is suspension.

To assure funding will be available for CMP, money will be sourced from the first year deposit of the Final Mine Rehabilitation

but withdrawal of money will need to be cleared by the MGB regional directors.

Among the companies whose mining operations are currently suspended include Krominco Inc., Mt. Sinai Exploration and Development Corp., Libjo Mining Corp., Wellex Mining Corp. and AAMPFIL Natural Resources and Development Corp.



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SITE OF FOSSILS OF HOMO LUZONENSIS

**CALLAO CAVE IN CAGAYAN DECLARED AN 'IMPORTANT CULTURAL PROPERTY'**

**By Jhesset O. Enano**  
@JhessetEnanoINQ

A cultural marker will be unveiled at the Callao Cave complex in Peñablanca town, Cagayan province, on Thursday, officially recognizing the cave as an "important cultural property" of the country.

The National Museum of the Philippines will lead the unveiling of the marker, along with the team of scientists behind the excavation of the fossils of the *Homo luzonensis*, a previously unknown human species, from the cave.

While the museum has

declared the Callao Cave as an important cultural property through an ordinance, the marker, along with the official declaration, has yet to be placed on site.

One of the limestone caves in Peñablanca, Callao Cave is a seven-chamber cave and is part of the town's protected landscape and seascape.

Last year, it gained prominence after scientists confirmed the discovery of a new human species that lived between 50,000 and 67,000 years ago, from fossils dug up in the cave by a team led by Armand Salvador Mijares, a scientist from the

University of the Philippines.

**Breakthrough**

Mijares began his excavation at Callao Cave in 2003 and unearthed a breakthrough four years later, after digging up a foot bone that belonged to a human.

In the next few years, his team made up of Filipino, French and Australian archeologists would excavate 13 fossil bones and teeth, which turned out to be the remains of at least three individuals from this new species.

Mijares said the declaration for Callao Cave was only a "first step" in recognizing the impor-

tance of this complex in the country and in the region.

The highest category of cultural properties in the country, under the cultural heritage law, is the "national cultural treasure." "I want Callao to be in that level because Tabon Cave is at that level ... I think [they] should be at par," Mijares said.

**More protection**

Located in Palawan province, Tabon Cave was where the Manunggul Jar and the fossil of the Tabon Man, identified as a species of *Homo sapiens*, were excavated.

Mijares also expressed hope

that the recognition of Callao Cave would allow for more protection and preservation of the cave system, where some areas are already drying up due to deforestation above the cave.

The absence of trees, he said, can lead to more rockfall and can result in the potential collapse of the cave, if its situation continues to worsen.

He said his team would begin excavating again in Callao on Feb. 10, in hopes of digging up more new discoveries.

"Hopefully, [our work] educates and invigorates that sense of nationality and pride of Filipinos," Mijares said. INQ



TO CURB POLLUTION

# BAGUIO STARTS CRACKDOWN ON PIGPENS

BAGUIO CITY—The city government has started shutting down pigpens this week after the lapse of the Jan. 30 deadline for hog raisers to voluntarily stop all backyard operations that are banned under city laws.

Lawyer Rhenan Diwas, acting city environment and parks management officer, said they had notified 241 hog raisers about the crackdown.

Diwas said these backyard raisers were advised to shift to another form of livelihood or join a cooperative that is developing a common pig farm in Tuba town, Benguet province.

The shutdown of pigpens supports a Baguio plan to reduce pollution that is discharged into the rivers. Pigpens and poor septage systems of the city market and the city abattoir have been blamed for the high levels of fecal matter in four rivers flowing to Benguet and La Union province.

### High coliform content

Balili River, which flows to vegetable farms in La Trinidad town in Benguet, has coliform content of 1.6 quadrillion while Bued River along Kennon Road has fecal content of up to 5.4 trillion, according to a report to Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año.

The city's hog raisers have been asked to form a cooperative that would own and operate a modern and automated pig farm at Barangay San Pascual in Tuba, using a P12-million grant from the Department of Agriculture. —VINCENT

CABREZA (M)



## SWS polls: Most Pinoys want regulated use of plastics

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

MAJORITY of Filipinos wants a regulation on the use of plastic “sando” and “labo” bags, styrofoam and plastic cutlery as well as sachets and refillable plastic packaging for food items, a survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) showed.

The SWS survey was commissioned by non-governmental group Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) and was done from September 27 to 30

last year. The results were released only on Tuesday.

The survey involved 1,800 adult respondents nationwide and had a margin of error of  $\pm 2.3$  percent.

The polls showed that 71 percent of the respondents want the use of plastic sando bags regulated nationwide, along with the use of styrofoam and polystyrene food containers (56 percent), plastic labo bags (54 percent), plastic straws and stirrers (52 percent) and sachets (50 percent).

A near majority also wants to

put under regulation the use of plastic drinking cups (43 percent) and plastic cutlery like spoon and forks (41 percent), while a third of the respondents want a nationwide regulation on the use of tetra packs for juices (37 percent) and plastic bottles for water and fruit juices (42 percent).

Except for Mindanao, majority of the respondents from Luzon and the Visayas support the regulation of the use of plastic sando

See SWS ► Page B3

### SWS

bags (57 percent to 60 percent) and the use styrofoam and polystyrene food containers (51 o 59 percent).

However, a near majority of Mindanaoans want the same regulations applied on the use of sando bags (46 percent) and styrofoam (48 percent), and labo bags (50 percent).

SWS also found out that 66 percent of Filipinos are willing to buy food condiments in recyclable or refillable materials, while 42 percent said they are willing to purchase personal care products

and another 42 percent said they are willing to buy and household liquid cleaning products in recyclable containers.

Twenty-nine (29) percent said they are willing to purchase powdered drinks like coffee and fruit juice packed in recyclable or refillable containers, while 27 percent said they prefer to buy household powder cleaning products in recyclable or refillable sachets.

The SWS survey also showed that 41 percent of the respondents felt that companies that use single-use plastics (SUPs) should use alternative materials, while 23

percent said companies should collect their plastic containers and recycle them.

Fourteen (14) percent of the respondents said companies that use SUPs should stop the use and production of plastics, while four (4) percent said more seminars on the observance of proper waste management should be conducted to make producers and manufacturers aware of the products' impact on the environment.

The conduct of survey was done amid efforts in Congress to pass a measure regulating or banning the use of SUPs.



# Environment group urges Congress to pass the bill renewing ABS-CBN's franchise

A NATIONWIDE alliance of environment groups, Green Thumb Coalition (GTC), has thrown its support for the franchise renewal of ABS-CBN for the network's efforts in communicating the value of the environment through its various platforms, producing educational shows, and providing relevant public service programs.

In a statement, GTC said that the TV network "provides wide and strong platforms to communicate the importance of the environment, including the realities that have caused environmental destruction."

The 40-group coalition hailed the network's news department for giving 'voice' to nature. "By raising red flags on the disastrous consequence of large-scale mining, dirty and harmful energy such as coal plants, massive land conversion and deforestation by way of news reporting, ABS-CBN mainstreams the silent testimonies of the forests, seas and the skies; giving them the 'voice.'"

The coalition also said, "Filipinos clearly benefit from the positive impacts of its educational shows like Sine Eskwela, Hiraya Manawari, Bayani, among others and public service programs such as Bantay Bata 163, Sagip Kapamilya, Bantay Kalikasan, to name a few."

"GTC is reminded of the critical persistence and dedication of the late Gina Lopez, who had been instrumental in shaping much of the public service programs of ABS-CBN that continue to this day. These programs have been embraced by the people as emblematic of the Filipino culture and traditions," according to the coalition.

The Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ), another alliance of over 100 organizations representing various sectors in the country, also stands with GTC in



their statement on ABS-CBN's franchise renewal.

"ABS-CBN is one of the broadcasting stations that have been consistent when it comes to informing the public about the environment, its impact on our lives, and more importantly, how we can do our part in preserving our natural resources and help battle climate change," said PMCJ in a Facebook post.

"In our world today, it is paramount that the people are well-informed about developments on our planet's climate and become empowered to act accordingly," the group added.



## RECYCLED BUSINESS NA 'PAPER FOR NOW'

### NI SHERYL CRUZ MABENTA SA ABROAD

**T**AONG 2012 nang itayo ni Sherly Cruz at ng kasosyo ang 'Paper For Now', na maker ng bags, wallets, accesories na gawa mula sa recycled newspapers. Sa negosyong ito ni Sheryl ay na-e-express niya ang hilig niya sa art simula noong bata pa. Masaya rin ang Kapuso actress at nabibigyan niya ng trabaho ang kapwa babae especially mothers na may sinusuportang pamilya.

Sa ganda ng mga produkto ni Sheyrl ay tinawag itong world-



SHERYL CRUZ

class kaya pati mga kababayan natin sa abroad ay sinasadya talaga ang mga outlet ng 'Paper for Now' sa Cash and Carry at Kultura. May mga exhibit din na nagpa-participate ang 'Paper for Now' at isa sila sa pinakamabenta.

Hands-on pa la si Sheryl sa selection and production activities ng business niyang ito.

Samantala, patuloy na napanood ang actress tuwing hapon sa teleseryeng "Magkaagaw" at bongga ang ratings nila.



## GOTCHA

JARIUS BONDOC



### Stop panicking; just be hygienic

**W**e're up to our ears in talk of nCoV: Of face masks in short supply and spiraling price here and there. Of supposed outbreaks in certain cities and hospitals, and other fake news. Of sure cures that are actually subtle sales pitches for health supplements.

Social media posts tend to blow things out of proportion and depict the end of the world. SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) from China in 2003 was as contagious and deadly as the present 2019 novel coronavirus from Wuhan. But there is wider alarm today, since more people are online. If there's any major change in public policy then and now, it's that the Chinese Communist rulers are more pro-active and open about the situation. Hiding the truth would spur a backlash that could topple them, also due to the democratizing power of social media.

Governments in Asia, America, and Europe are striving to protect their citizens. Lockouts have been imposed on flights to and from China, though those may be overreactions. NCoV reportedly has infected 17,000 in Wuhan, and 450 have died, as of this writing. In Manila a Chinese tourist, confirmed as nCoV-positive, expired from pneumonia symptoms; his girlfriend recovered. Even Filipino overseas workers returning to jobs in Hong Kong and Singapore after the holidays are being prevented from departing. In winter 15 million Americans catch flu, also contagious and potentially fatal, yet there's no travel ban to and from there. Airports all over check the body temps of arrivals with expensive handheld or walk-through gear. They strictly did that in Canada in 2003, with no SARS ever detected, yet that coronavirus killed 778 persons that year, including 44 in Canada.

Expect an nCoV vaccine and a cure in six to 12 months. Duty fires researchers in China, the United States and Australia. Fame and fortune await the pharma distributor. It's human nature.

Meanwhile, local governments and hospitals would do well to test-run their responses to epidemic. Drills must be conducted to check the readiness of medics, adequacy of equipment, and smoothness of systems. Ongoing courses can be copied from New York City and elsewhere.

So what should ordinary citizens like us do to help?

First, listen to experts. Our doctors and public health specialists know what they're doing. Trust them when they quote findings that nCoV, not airborne, is transmitted only by close contact. Meaning, we don't need to wear face masks in public transports and areas – unless we are sick or are ministering to the sick. Many of us don't even know that face masks can be used only two to three hours then replaced; the saliva and mucous stains can breed microbes and make us sick. And never take un-prescribed meds, like those for HIV only, for cough and sore throat. Stop pestering health workers as well for details on

PUIs (patients under investigation) just to gossip; unofficial disclosure is against privacy laws.

Second, let's be hygienic. Cover our mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. And avoid touching our mouth, nostrils and eyes too often as we open doors, push buttons and pull stuff. Not only nCoV but other coronaviruses that survive for a few hours can enter our lungs that way. Best to wash our hands before and after eating and working. Only one in 37 males wash their hands after pissing (ew!), so teach your sons, friends and workmates to break away from the dirty majority. A little hand sanitizing would do. Don't spit in public; that's as illegal as public defecation. Basic hygiene also dictates that we regularly clip and clean our nails, wash our hair and tie it up if long and bothersome to the person next to us.

In America and Europe people stare disapprovingly and stride away from Asian-looking persons who cough or sneeze. Similarly racist Filipinos denigrate the Chinese for the nCoV, SARS and bird flu. But look at us. We may not die of nCoV; there might not even be a pandemic. But what's going to kill us is our filth.

"Millions of squatter families along riversides and lakeshores have no house toilet, so drop waste into waterways. Millions more homes with indoor plumbing and septic vaults are not connected to sewage treatment plants, so also spew waste onto waterways. Factories dump industrial waste there too. In those same waterways we draw tap water, bathe, raise tasty fish in pens and build tourist resorts.

Dirty air will kill us too. We allow on the road smoke-belching vehicles. We let grimy factories operate in our midst. Flouting the Clean Air Act, we burn dry leaves, paper and plastics in the hope of driving away mosquitos from our premises, but only worsen the respiratory ailments of neighbors. And our authorities do nothing.

We tolerate unsanitary conditions. We frequent restaurants despite knowing there are rats and roaches in the kitchen. We take for granted the fact that if restaurant toilets stink and have no running water, their kitchen outputs are likely to be sloppy too. All filling stations, transport depots, airports, seaports, and toll ways are required to have toilets. Yet we let them get away with busted faucets and flushes.

Public hysteria over nCoV, about which we ordinary people can do little while experts study it, distract us from the fatal filth around us. And I haven't even begun to repeat the stats I ran in this space in recent weeks – on the rising death toll in road crashes, especially those involving motorcycles.

Catch *Sapol* radio show, Saturdays, 8-10 a.m., DWIZ (882-AM).

Gotcha archives: [www.philstar.com/columns/134276/gotcha](http://www.philstar.com/columns/134276/gotcha)





TITLE:

SA ngayon, isa sa mga problema sa ating lipunan kaugnay ng novel corona virus ang diskriminasyon at pamumulitika.

Naranasan ng mga Chinese, Tsinoy at may dugong Chinese ang diskriminasyon samantalang walang tigil sa paninisi sa pamahalaang Duterte sa "hulina" umanong aksyon nito laban sa NCOV.

Problema ng buong mundo ang NCOV ngayon kahit nasa 25 bansa pa lang ang nagsasabing mayroon na silang kaso.

Problema dahil lumulundag ang bilang ng mga namamatay mula sa isa lang noong Enero 10, 2020 at ngayong nasa 426 na sa China habang tig-isa ang Pilipinas at Hong Kong.

Nasa 75,000 naman ang may NCOV Wuhan City lamang at maaaring lalagpas sa 100,000 ang nahawa, kasama na ang matatagpuan sa 25 bansa, kasama ang Pilipinas.

**DISKRIMINASYON**  
Mga Chinese, Tsinoy o Pinoy na may kaunting lahing Chinese ang nakaramdam ng diskriminasyon.

Bagama't nakararami naman ang hindi nagpapakita ng diskriminasyon, hindi rin mabilang sa daliri ang mga alergic o galit.

Umaabot pa nga sa ilan ang paniniwalang minamalas sila sa mga tatlong uri ng may dugong Chinese.

Sa social media rin ramdam ang matindi na diskriminasyon at kasama sa mga walang magawa kundi manisi ang mga walang mukha o peke ang mga pangalan o hindi gumagamit ng tunay nilang larawan at pangalan.

**PAMUMULITIKA**  
Kung pag-aaralan ang pakikitungo ng mga duda sa mga Chinese, Tsinoy at may lahing Chinese, malaki ang kaugnayan nito sa pulitika.

Karaniwang mga aktibong kritiko ng administrasyong Duterte ang nagbibitiw ng mga nakasasakit at mapanising salita.

Sinisisi pa nga mismo si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa pakikipagkaibigan at akikisama nito nang maayos sa bansang China.

At dito umano nagsimula ang pagpasok ng NCOV sa mahal kong Pinas dahil sa pagpasok ng mga Chinese sa Pinas.

Ngayon, nangangamba na umano ang lahing Pinoy sa nasa-



## AMERICAN (SPANISH) FLU, PUMATAY NG 80,000 PINOY

bing sakit, bagay na tala-gang sobrang sama ang pakahulugan.

**80K PINOY PATAY SA AMERICAN FLU**

Sa gitna ng mga nakasama ng loob na salita laban sa mga Chinese, Tsinoy at may lahing Chinese ng mga namumulitika at gumagawa ng diskriminasyon dahil sa NCOV, heto ang halos hindi nalalaman marahil ng nakararami sa mga basher at hater na ito.

Nang sumalakay ang Spanish Flu sa mundo noong 1918-1919 sa loob lang ng 25 linggo, 80,000 Pinoy ang namatay, ayon kay Crawford Kilian, ng The Tyee na online newspaper na nakabase sa Canada.

Ang Spanish flu ay tinawag ding American flu dahil sa totoong kasaysayan ay nagmula ito sa kampo militar na Fort Riley sa Kansas, Amerika.

Makaraang magkasakit ang cook ng campo na si Albert Gitchell, mabilis na kumalat ito hanggang sa mahawa ang marami pang kampo ng mga Kano at magsimula silang magkapeste.

**PINAKALAT NG KANO SA WW1**

Dahil sa World War 1, nagpadala ang Amerika ng dalawang milyong sundalo sa Europa laban sa kalaban nilang Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria.

Dito na kumalat ang Spanish o American flu at nahawa ang 500 milyong tao sa buong mundo at umabot umano sa 50-100 milyong tao ang namatay.

Mismo sa Amerika, 675,000 ang namatay; Britain, 250,000; France, 400,000; at buong Europe, 2.64 million.

Nang magsiuwian ang mga taga-India na sundalo ng Britanya sa India mula sa giyera sa Europa, kumalat ang American flu at pumatay ng 14M Bombay; Japan - halos 400,000; Indonesia - 1.5M; Iran - 2M; Canada - 50,000; Brazil - 400,000.

Sa Pilipinas, dala-dala ng mga Kano ang American flu habang nagsasanay ng mga Pinoy na sundalo na gusto nilang isabak sa nasabing digmaan at nagbunga ito ng kamatayan sa 80,000 Pi-

noy.  
**2 SAKSI NI VIRGIN MARY PATAY RIN**

Pati ang nakakita kay Virgin Mary sa Fatima, Portugal na sina Francisco at Jacinta Marto, ay namatay rin sa American flu na pinakalat ng mga Kano sa WW1.

Nahawa sila noong 1918 at namatay si Francisco noong 1919 at si Jacinta noong 1920.

Ganyan kabagsik ang American flu o Spanish flu.

Oo nga pala, tinawag na Spanish flu ito dahil neutral sa digmaan noon ang Spain at inilabas ng media ang istorya ng mga namamatay.

At nang nagkasakit si Haring Alfonso XIII, inilabas din ng media kaya lalong nalaman ng publiko ang sakit na pilit na itinatago ng mga Kano, British at iba pang kaalyado nila para di malaman ng mga kalaban na namamatay na sila sa sakit at baka malalo sila.

**I LOVE YOU, I HATE YOU**

Panay I LOVE YOU sa Amerika ng mga gumagawa ng diskriminasyon at kritiko ni Pangulong Digong habang I HATE YOU ang sinasabi nila sa mga Chinese, Tsinoy at may lahing Chinese at kay Pang. Digong dahil sa NCOV.

Matapos nilang mabasa ito, ano kaya ang masasabi nila?

Pero alalahaning isinulat natin ang lahat ng ito upang mahimamasan tayong lahat na ang pandemic na NCOV at ang American flu ay hindi sinasadyang mga kalamidad para lang makapinsala ng maraming tao o ng sambayanang Filipino.

Sa halip na lumusong sa mga diskriminasyon, paninira at pamumulitika, dapat magkaisa at magtulungan ang lahat laban sa epidemya o kalamidad na dumating sa ating bansa.

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





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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.

