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IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service

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UENR sets environment summit

By Joel dela Torre

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is all set for the 3rd Philippine Environment Summit (PES) which convenes mostly college and senior high school students aimed at promoting sound environmental practices toward sustainable development.

To be held in Cagayan de Oro City next month, PES 2020 is a three-day event that gives DENR "golden opportunity" to encourage the youth to become powerful agents of changefortheenvironment.

Apartfrom the students, the summit organized by the DENR and Green Convergence Philippines with the support of Forest Foundation Philippine and Energy Development Corp. will also serve as venue for leaders from the government, civil society, business, academe and the religious sector to present programs and projects for the environment,

The DENR delegation will be led by Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Juan Miguel T. Cuna, who anticipated at least 1,000 participants for the summit, 40 percent of which will be college and senior high school students.

"This means we can shape the mindset of these young individuals about environmental protection," Cuna said.

He added that the summit will also serve as an avenue to further strengthen the linkages and collaboration among environmental stakeholders.

GreenConvergencePhilippines president Angelina Galang said this year's theme "Paradigm (re)Shift. Heeding Nature" is anchored on the premise that "the technologies, as well as the social and economic systems humankind has developed through the ages, have brought about the compromised planetary environment we have today."

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Gov't bans single-use plastics

By Rio N. Araja

Waste Management
Commission under
the Office of the President
has already approved a
resolution to ban single-use
plastics in all government
offices.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the commission passed NSWMC Resolution 1363 of 2020, which ordered the Environment department to "prepare and implement" the ban on the use of "unnecessary" single-use plastic products by national government agencies, local government units and all other government-controlled offices.

"The NSWMC resolution is a ma-



Cimatu

jor step to curb the use of single-use plastic items that pollute our waterways, kill marine life and contribute to our country's increasing solid waste," Cimatu said.

The DENR will come up with specific guidelines in the implementation of the ban that forms part of the government's "solid waste avoidance and minimization strategy."

Those covered by the ban are cups less than 0.2 millimeter in thickness, drinking straws, coffee stirrers, spoons, forks, knives, "labo" or thin and translucent plastic bags, and thin-filmed sando bags lower than 15 microns.

Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny Antiporda defended the NSWMC for initially including only eight single-use plastic items in the ban.

"It was the decision of the NSWMC to come up with a balanced judgment on the use of single-use plastics by taking into consideration that we can only ban those that have available alternatives," Antiporda said in a statement.



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NSWMC bans 'unnecessary' single-use plastics

in govt offices

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

** @jonlmayuga

HE National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) has approved a resolution that will effectively ban selected single-use plastics in all government offices nationwide, a move welcomed by environmental groups with skepticism.

Environment Secretary and concurrent NSWMC Chairman Roy A. Cimatu signed Resolution No. 1363, Series of 2020 directing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to prepare and implement the ban on the use of "unnecessary" single-use plastic products by national government agencies, local gov-

ernment units (LGUs), and all other government-controlled offices.

Created by RA 9003, NSWMC is an inter-agency body under the Office of the President. It is mandated to oversee the implementation of solid waste management plans and prescribe policies to achieve the law's objectives.

Aside from the DENR, the NSWMC is also composed of the Departments of Agriculture, Interior and Local Government, Public Works and Highways, Science and Technology, and Trade and Industry.

Its members are the League of Cities of the Philippines, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Philippine Information Agency, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and representatives from the recycling and manufacturing/ packaging sectors.

Covered by the ban are cups less than 0.2 millimeters in thickness, drinking straws, coffee stirrers, spoons, forks, knives, "labo" or thin and translucent plastic bags, and thin-filmed sando bags lower than 15 microns.

In a a statement, Cimatu said the NSWMC resolution is a "major step" to curb the use of singleuse plastic items that "pollute our waterways, kill marine life and contribute to our country's increasing solid waste."

The DENR will come up with specific guidelines for the implementation of the plastics ban, which now forms part of the government's "solid waste

avoidance and minimization strategy."

The United Nations has estimated that land-based sources, including plastic waste that has been blown into rivers and creeks by wind, are responsible for 80 percent of the world's marine debris.

With the policy in place, the DENR expects all national government agencies, LGUs and government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government-funded facilities to strictly abide by the rule.

Initially, only eight singleuse plastic items were included in the ban because not all singleuse plastics or disposable plastic products can be replaced by a more environment-friendly option.



PHILIPPINE DAILY BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS INOUIRER



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Ban on single-use plastics in gov't OKd

By Jhesset O. Enano @JhessetEnanoINQ

The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) has approved a resolution that mandates the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to prepare and to implement the banning of "unnecessary" single-use plastics in all government offices.

Under Resolution No. 1363, signed by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Feb. 12 and made public on Monday, the DENR will come up with specific guidelines for national agencies, local governments and all other government-con-

trolled offices to prohibit certain plastic items in their workplaces.

These include plastic cups less than 0.2 millimeters in thickness, drinking straws, coffee stirrers and disposable forks, spoons and knives.

Plastic "labo" and thin-filmed sando bags, which are lower than 15 microns, are also identified as unnecessary plastics.

For and against

Eight member-agencies of the commission voted in favor of the resolution: the DENR, Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Public Works and Highways, League of Cities of the Philippines, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Philippine Information Agency and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Representatives of the recycling industry and the manufacturing and packaging industry voted against the resolution.

The Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Trade and Industry abstained.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said the commission was still considering imposing penalties on violations of the ban.

Environment groups, however, criticized the resolution, saying it had loopholes that may lead to the more frequent use of plastic packaging.

Von Hernandez, global coordinator of the Break Free from Plastic (BFFP) Movement, said the ban did not cover single-use plastic bottles and styrofoam cups, which were among the top polluting items found by green groups.

"[It is also] practically unimplementable, as who will measure the thickness of bags and cups?" he said. "Experience in other countries have shown that this type of policy approach has resulted in the production and proliferation of more plastic bags in commerce and the environment."

Hernandez also took issue with the term, unnecessary plastics, saying that the process had been rather arbitrary.

'Balanced judgment'

But Antiporda, who oversees solid waste management and local government units, said the eight plastic products identified were done so with "balanced judgment."

"It was the decision of the NSWMC to come up with a balanced judgment single-use plastics by taking into consideration that we can only ban those that have available alternatives," he said. EcoWaste Coalition said the DENR and the NSWMC should release a list of "nonenvironmentally acceptable packaging and products (NEAP)," which EcoWaste said is the responsibility of those agencies under the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

"It has been 19 years since the law has been adopted ... [but] until now, they just keep on studying it," Aileen Lucero, EcoWaste national coordinator, said in an interview.

"The NEAP list, once released, will benefit all, not just government offices, and will push manufacturers to opt for alternative packaging and delivery systems," she said. INQ



Single-use plastics banned in all government offices

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The single use of plastics will now be banned in all government offices all over the country.

This was after the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), chaired by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu, signed last Feb. 12 the NSWMC Resolution No. 1363, Series of 2020, directing the DENR to "prepare and implement" the ban on the use of "unnecessary" single-use plastic products by national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and all other

government-controlled offices.

The plastic products covered by the ban are cups less than 0.2 millimeter in thickness, drinking straws, coffee stirrers, spoons, forks, knives, "labo" or thin and translucent plastic bags, and thin-filmed sando bags lower than 15 microns.

"The NSWMC resolution is a major step to curb the use of single-use plastic items that pollute our waterways, kill marine life and contribute to our country's increasing solid waste," Cimatu pointed out.

He said the DENR is expected to craft specific guidelines for the implementation of the plastics ban, which forms part of the government's "solid waste avoidance and minimization strategy."

Citing a United Nations (UN) report, Cimatu earlier said the Philippines is one of top five contributors of plastic waste in the world's oceans, accounting for about half of the total plastic leakage.

"We produce 2.7 metric tons of plastic waste every year," Cimatu said. "Following this trajectory of plastic production and mismanagement, UN reports predicted that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the oceans than there are fish."

Under the Republic Act 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, the DENR has the function to recommend policies to eliminate barriers to waste reduction programs.

Created by RA 9003, NSWMC is an inter-agency body under the Office of the President mandated to oversee the implementation of solid waste management plans and prescribe policies to achieve the law's objectives.

Aside from the DENR, the NSWMC is also composed of the Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Science and Technology, and Department of Trade and Industry.

Other members include the League of Cities of the Philippines, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Philippine Information Agency, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and representatives from the recycling and manufacturing/packaging sectors.



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Waste agency bans single-use plastics in gov't offices

By RHODINA VILLANUEVA

The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) has approved a resolution imposing a ban on single-use plastics in all government offices nationwide.

The NSWMC issued Resolution No. 1363, Series of 2020, recently signed by the commission's chairman Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, which imposed the ban on plastic cups less than 0.2 millimeter in thickness, drinking straws, coffee stirrers, spoons, forks, knives, thin and translucent plastic bags and thin-filmed sando bags lower than 15 microns.

The resolution also directed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to prepare and implement the ban on the use of unnecessary single-use plastic products by national government agencies, local government units (LGUs) and all other government-controlled offices.

"The NSWMC resolution is a major step to curb the use of single-use plastic items that pollute our waterways, kill marine life and contribute to our country's increasing solid waste," Cimatu pointed out.

He said the DENR will come up with specific guidelines for the implementation of the plastics ban, which forms part of the government's "solid waste avoidance and minimization strategy."

The United Nations has estimated that land-based sources, including plastic waste that has been blown into rivers and creeks by wind, are responsible for 80 percent of the world's marine debris.

DENR Undersecretary for solid waste management and LGU concerns Benny Antiporda, meanwhile, defended the NSWMC for initially including only eight single-use plastic items in the ban.

"It was the decision of the NSWMC to come up with a balanced judgment on the use of single-use plastics by taking into consideration that we can only ban those that have available alternatives," said Antiporda. He cited Section 29 of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which provides that "non-environmentally acceptable products shall not be prohibited unless the [NSWMC] first finds that there are alternatives available to consumers at no more than 10 percent greater cost than the disposable product."

Created by Republic Act 9003, NSWMC is an inter-agency body under the Office of the President mandated to oversee the implementation of solid waste management plans and prescribe policy.

Aside from the DENR, the NSWMC is also composed of the Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Science and Technology and Department of Trade and Industry.

Other members include the League of Cities of the Philippines, Metro Manila Development Authority, Philippine Information Agency, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and representatives from the recycling and manufacturing/packaging sectors.









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Single-use plastic's banned in gov't offices

Single use plastics have been banned in all government offices all over the country.

The National Solid Waste Management Commission, chaired by Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu, signed last Feb. 12 NSWMC Resolution No. 1363, Series of 2020, directing the DENR to "prepare and implement" the ban on the use of "unnecessary" single-use plastic products by national government agencies, local government units, and all other government-controlled offices.

The plastic products covered by the ban are cups less than 0.2 millimeters in thickness, drinking straws, coffee stirrers, spoons, forks, knives, "labo" or thin and translucent plastic bags, and thinfilmed sando bags lower than 15 microns.

"The NSWMC resolution is a major step to curb the use of

single-use plastic items that pollute our waterways, kill marine life, and contribute to our country's increasing solid waste," Cimatu said.

He said the DENR is expected to craft specific guidelines for the implementation of the plastics ban, which forms part of the government's "solid waste avoidance and minimization strategy."

Citing a United Nations report, Cimatu had earlier said the Philippines is one of top five contributors of plastic waste in the world's oceans, accounting for about half of the total plastic leakage.

"We produce 2.7 metric tons of plastic waste every year," Cimatu said. "Following this trajectory of plastic production and mismanagement, UN reports predicted that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the oceans than there are fish." (Ellalyn Ruiz)



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Single-use plastic bawal sa gobyerno

Bawal na ang paggamit ng mga single-use plastic sa lahat ng mga opisina

single-use plastic sa lanar ng mga opisina ng gobyerno sa buong bansa. Ito ay matapos aprubahan ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) sa pamumuno ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), bilang chair, ang resolusyon na nagbabawal ng single-use plastic sa lahat ng mga opisina ng gobyero sa buong bansa.

Ang NSWMC Resolution No. 1363, Series of 2020, na pinirmahan ni Cimatu, ay nag-aatas sa DENR na ihanda at ipaturad ang han sa paggamit na mga hunga han sa paggamit na mga hunga han sa paggamit na mga hunga hunga han sa paggamit na mga hunga hun

ay ing-adas sa DENN ha inalida at ipatu-pad ang ban sa paggamit ng mga 'unne-cessary' single-use plastic product sa mga national government agency, local go-vernment unit (LGU), at lahat ng govern-ment-controlled office.

Ang mga produktong plastic na kasama sa ban ay mga cup na mas manipis sa 0.2 millimeter, drinking straw, coffee stirrer, spoon, fork, knive, 'labo' o thin

at translucent plastic bag, at thin-filmed sando bag lower than 15 microns. "The NSWMC resolution is a major

step to curb the use of single-use plastic items that pollute our waterways, kill ma-

rine life and contribute to our country's increasing solid waste," sabi ni Cimatu.

Ayon kay Cimatu, bubuo ang DENR ng mga guideline para sa pagpapatupad ng plastic ban, na bahagi ng 'solid waste avoidance and minimization strategy ng

gobyerno.
Sa teorya ng United Nations, land-based sources, kabilang ang plastic waste na natatangay ng hangin sa mga ilog at creek ang dahilan ng 80 percent ng ma-ting debris sa mundo. rine debris sa mundo.

Samantala, ipinagtanggol ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny D. Antiporda ang desisyon ng NSWMC na walong uri ng single-use plastic item pa lamang ang pangunahing ipagbabawal.

"It was the decision of the NSWMC to come up with a balanced judgment on the use of single-use plastics by taking into consideration that we can only ban those that have available alternation." tives," paliwanag ni Antiporda na alter-nate NSWMC chair.

Tinukoy ni Antiporda ang Section 29 ng Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, kung saan nakasaad na "non-environmentally acceptable products shall not be prohibited unless the [NSWMC] first finds that there are alternatives which are available to consumers at no more than 10 percent greater cost than the disposable product.

Ang NSWMC na binuo ayon sa RA 9003, ay isang inter-agency body sa ilalim ng Office of the President. Mandato nito na tiyakin ang solid waste management para mapangalagaan ang kapaligiran. (Riz Dominguez)







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Single-use plastics bawal na sa gov't offices

IPAGBABAWAI. na ang paggamit ng "single-use plas-tics" sa lahat ng mga opisina ng gobyerno sa buong bansa makaraang aprubahan ng National Solid Waste Management Commission ang resolusyon hinggil dito. Batay sa NSWMC Resolution No. 1363 na primmahan ni

Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na nagsisilbi rin na chairman ng nasabing komisyon, inaatasan nito ang DENR na ihanda at ipatupad ang pagbabawal sa paggamit ng "unnecessary" single-use plastic products sa mga national government agencies, local govern-ment units at lahat ng government-controlled offices.

Ang mga produidong plastic na kasama sa ban ay cups na mas manipis sa 0.2 millimeter, drinking straws, coffee stirrers,

spoons, forks, knives, "labo" or thin at translucent plastic bags at thin-filmed sando bags lower than 15 microns.

Ayon kay Cimetu, bubuo ang DENR ng guidelines para sa pagpapatupad ng plastics ban na bahagi ng "solid waste avoi-

pagpapatupad ng piastics ban na baragi ng solid waste avoidance and minimization strategy" ng gobyemo.

Sa tantya ng United Nations, land-based sources, kabilang ang piastic waste na natatangary ng hangin sa mga ilog at creek. na nagiging dahilan ng 80 percent ng marine debris sa mundo.

Samantala, ipinagtanggol ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns Benny D. Antiporda ang desisyon ng NSWMC na waleng uri ng single-use plastic itoms na lang ang nangunahing inachahawal. items pa lang ang pangunahing ipagbabawal.
"It was the decision of the NSWMC to come up with a

"It was the decision of the NSWMC to come up with a balanced judgment on the use of single-use plastics by taking into consideration that we can only ban those that have available alternatives," paliwanag ni Antiporda na alternate NSWMC chair.

Tinukoy ni Antiporda ang Section 29 ng Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, kung saan nakasaad na "non-environmentally acceptable products shall not be prohibited unless the [NSWMC] first finds that there are alternatives which are available to consumers at no more than 10 percent greater cost than the disposable product."

And NSWMC, na hinua avon sa RA 9003, av isang inter-

Ang NSWMC, na binuo ayon sa RA 9003, ay isang interagency body sa italim ng Office of the President kung saan and mandato nito ay "oversee the implementation of solid waste management plans and prescribe policies to achieve the law's JAY REYES









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Single-use plastics bawal na sa opisina ng gobyerno

NI ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

Ipapagbawal na ang single-use plastics sa lahat ng mga tanggapan ng gobyerno sa buong bansa.

Ito ay matapos lumagda ang National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), na pinamumunuan ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu, nitong Pebrero 12 sa NSWMC Resolution No. 1363, Series of 2020,

na nag-aatas sa DENR na ihanda at ipatupad ang pagbabawal sa paggamit single-use plastic products ng mga ahensiya ng pambansang pamahalaan, local government units (LGUs), at lahat ng iba pang government-controlled offices.

Ang plastic products na sakop ng ban ay mga tasa na halos 0.2 milimetro ang kapal, drinking straws, coffee stirrers, kutsara, tinidor, kutsilyo, "labo" o manipis na translucent plastic bags, at thinfilmed sando bags na wala pang 15 microns.

"The NSWMC resolution is a major step to curb the use of single-use plastic items that pollute our waterways, kill marine life and contribute to our country's increasing solid waste," punto ni Cimatu.





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Tullahan river project helps solve Bulacan floods — SMC

This is why whenever there are typhoons or heavy rains, low-lying areas near the river, particularly Bulacan province, become flooded

San Miguel Corp.'s (SMC) P1-billion initiative to dredge and expand the Tullahan river system, will not only give the Manila Bay rehabilitation project a major boost — it will also help solve flooding in Bulacan, ahead of plans to build the country's largest and most modern airport in the province.

The project, dubbed the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System dredging project, launched on Monday by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and SMC with local executives of Navotas, Malabon, Valenzuela and Bulacan, at the Navotas Centennial Park in Navotas City, where the 36.4-km Tullahan river drains into the

Manila Bay.

SMC president and COO Ramon S. Ang described the Tullahan river as a spillway from Angat and Ipo dams that is supposed to drain excess water into the Manila Bay.

However, due to pollution

the buildup of garbage, silt, and illegal structures over the many decades — it has become clogged, shallow, and narrow.

This is why whenever there are typhoons or heavy rains, low-lying areas near the river, particularly Bulacan province, become flooded.

"This project is a dredging and expansion initiative to address the problems of the Tullahan river," Ang explained. "First, we will take out the garbage, and then we will deepen the river so water can move more freely to the Manila Bay."

Keeping the Tullahan river garbage and pollution-free, Ang said, is critical to ensuring that the DENR's efforts to rehabilitate the Manila Bay under Secretary Roy Cimatu, will be a success.

It will also help ensure that flooding will no longer occur in low-lying areas such as Bulacan.

He called on local government officials' help in making sure that once the river cleaned, it will no longer be a dumping area for garbage and other pollutants.

"For our part, we assure you, this will not be a one-time project. We will also do continuous yearly

maintenance, and the dredging equipment we have bought will not be removed here anymore" he said.

At the event, Ang showcased brand new dredging equipment the company bought from Japan, specifically for the project. This includes backhoes with barges, 55-tonner cranes, also with barges, tugboats and dump trucks.

Ang also addressed issues raised by groups opposed to the planned new, \$15 billion Manila International Airport project, to be built in Bulakan, Bulacan, some five kilometers away from the site of the dredging ceremony.

The airport, envisioned as the country's largest and most modern, is being framed by opposers as a potential source of flooding in the province.

"One hundred percent, this

project will not worsen flooding in Bulacan, it will actually solve it. In the first place, foreign banks will not lend money for such major projects if they are not assured that you have addressed all environmental risks," he said.

Ang said that as part of preparatory work for the airport, the company had already hired expert foreign consultants to study the flooding situation in Bulacan.

They have identified the rivers, creeks, tributaries, and bodies of water that need to be cleaned, deepened, widened, and improved, to address flooding in the province.

"We will expand our dredging and clean-up operations to include these bodies of water, and provide a long-term and sustainable solution to flooding in Bulacan," he added.









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NLEX-SLEX link

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construction likely this year

NLEX Corp. president and general manager Luigi Bautista said they are already undergoing procurement for the contractor of the Section 2 of North Luzon Expressway-South Luzon Expressway connector road

BY MARIA ROMERO tribunephl_mbr

Construction of the second section of the road connecting North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) and South Luzon Expressway (NLEX) is likely to begin this year as Pangilinan-led NLEX Corporation is hoping to award the project contract by May.

In an interview last week, NLEX Corp. president and general manager Luigi Bautista said they are already undergoing procurement for the contractor of the Section 2 of North Luzon Expressway-South Luzon Expressway (NLEX-SLEX) connector road.

"For Section 2, we are already doing the procurement for the contractor. We are bidding it in a couple of months. The intention is to be able to identify the contractor by around May so that around that time we can already issue the notice

to proceed," Bautista told reporters.

Bautista said about six to seven companies have already expressed interest to bid for the project, which is an eight-kilometer toll road that will link NLEX Harbor Link Segment 10 in C3 Road, Caloocan City to the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

It is anticipated to provide an alternate route for trucks coming from the port area wherein the first section of the project goes all the way from Caloocan to España, while Section 2 is from España all the way to PUP Sta. Mesa.

With an estimated cost of around P13 to P14 billion, the expressway is targeted to be opened by NLEX Corp. in December 2021 and expected to serve 35,000 motorists daily, reducing travel time from NLEX to SLEX to 20 minutes from the usual two hours.







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ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu with business tycoon Rarnon Ang, MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim, Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco, Malabon Mayor Antolin Oreta and other officials formally launch the blessing of the equipment for dredging operations at the Tullahan-Tenajeros River in Navotas, Metro Manila. (See related story on page A-8)







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SMC's ₱1-B Tullahan river project seen to solve flooding

an Miguel Corporation's (SMC)
P1-billion initiative to dredge and
expand the Tullahan river system,
will not only give the Manila Bay
rehabilitation project a major boost – it will
also help solve flooding in Bulacan, ahead
of plans to build the country's largest and
most modern airport in the province.

The project, dubbed the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System dredging project, was launched yesterday by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and SMC with local executives of Navotas, Malabon, Valenzuela and Bulacan, at the Navotas Centennial Park in Navotas City, where the 36.4-km Tullahan river drains into the Manila Bay.

SMC president and COO Ramon S. Ang described the Tullahan river as a spillway from Angat and Ipo dams that is supposed to drain excess water into the Manila Bay.

However, due to pollution—the build—up of garbage, silt, and illegal structures over the many decades—it has become clogged, shallow, and narrow.

This is why whenever there are typhoons or heavy rains, low-lying areas near the river, particularly Bulacan province, become flooded.

"This project is a dredging and expansion initiative to address the problems of the Tullahan river," Ang explained. "First, we will take out the garbage, and then we will deepen the river so water can move more freely to the Manila Bay."

Keeping the Tullahan river garbage and pollution-free, Ang said, is critical to ensuring that the DENR's efforts to rehabilitate the Manila Bay under Secretary Roy Cimatu, will be a success.

It will also help ensure that flooding will no longer occur in low-lying areas such as Bulacan.

He called on local government officials' help in making sure that once the river cleaned, it will no longer be a dumping area for garbage and other pollutants.

"For our part, we assure you, this will not be a one-time project. We will also do continuous yearly maintenance, and the dredging equipment we have bought will not be removed here anymore" he said.

At the event, Ang showcased brand new dredging equipment the company bought from Japan, specifically for the project. This includes backhoes with barges, 55-tonner cranes, also with barges, tugboats, and dump trucks.

Airport project will not cause flooding, it will solve it

Ang also addressed issues raised by groups opposed to its planned new, US\$15-billion Manila International Airport project, to be built in Bulakan, Bulacan, some five kilometers away from the site of the dredging ceremony.

The airport, envisioned as the country's largest and most modern, is being framed by opposers as a potential source of flooding in the province.

"One hundred percent, this project will not worsen flooding in Bulacan, it will actually solve it. In the first place, foreign banks will not lend money for such major projects if they are not assured that you have addressed all environmental risks," he said.



Business Insight

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SMC spends P1B on Tullahan project

SAN MIGUEL Corp. is spending P1 billion to dredge and expand the Tullahan river, according to its president Ramon

Ang said this will not only give the Manila Bay rehabilitation project a major boost but also help solve flooding in Bulacan.

San Miguel, together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and local executives of Navotas, Malabon, Valenzuela and Bulacan, formally launched the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System dredging project at the Navotas Centennial Park in Navotas City, where the 36.4-km Tullahan river drains into the Manila Bay.

"This project is a dredging and expansion initiative to address the problems of the Tullahan river. First, we will take out the garbage, and then we will deepen the river so water can move more freely to the Manila Bay," Ang said.

Ang said the Tullahan river serves as a spillway from Angat and Ipo dams that is supposed to drain excess water into the Manila Bay.

"However, due to pollution--the buildup of garbage, silt, and illegal structures over the many decades--it has become clogged, shallow, and narrow,"

Ang meanwhile addressed issues raised by groups opposed to San Miguel's planned \$15 billion Manila International Airport project in Bulakan, Bulacan, some five kilometers away from the site of the dredg-

ing ceremony.
"One hundred percent, this project will not worsen flooding in Bulacan, it will actually solve it. In the first place, foreign banks will not lend money for such major projects if they are not assured that you have addressed all environmental risks," said Ang.

Ang said that as part of preparatory work for the airport, the company had already hired expert foreign consultants to study the flooding situation in Bulacan.



SMC set to expand, dredge Tullahan river

AN Miguel Corporation's P1-billion initiative to dredge and expand the Tullahan river system, will not only give the Manila Bay rehabilitation project a major boost—it will also help solve flooding in Bulacan, ahead of plans to build the country's largest and most modern airport in the province.

The project, dubbed the Tullahan-Tinajeros River System dredging project, was launched yesterday by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and SMC with local executives of Navotas, Malabon, Valenzuela and Bulacan, at the Navotas Centennial Park in Navotas City, where the 36.4-km Tullahan river drains into the Manila Bay.

Spillway to the Manila Bay SMC president and COO Ramon S. Ang described the Tullahan river as a spillway from Angat and Ipo dams that is supposed to drain excess water into the Manila Bay.

However, due to pollution—the buildup of garbage, silt, and illegal structures over the many decades—it has become clogged, shallow, and narrow.

This is why whenever there are typhoons or heavy rains, low-lying areas near the river, particularly Bulacan province, become flooded.

"This project is a dredging and expansion initiative to address the problems of the Tullahan river," Ang explained. "First, we will take out the garbage, and then we will deepen the river so water can move more freely to the Manila Bay."

Keeping the Tullahan river garbage and pollution-free, Ang said, is critical to ensuring that the DENR's efforts to rehabilitate the Manila Bay under Secretary Roy Cimatu, will be a success.

It will also help ensure that flooding will no longer occur in low-lying areas such as Bulacan.

He called on local government officials' help in making sure that once the river is cleaned, it will no longer be a dumping area for garbage and other pollutants.

"For our part, we assure you, this will not be a one-time project. We will also do continuous yearly maintenance, and the dredging equipment we have bought will not be removed here anymore" he said.

At the event, Ang showcased brand new dredging equipment the company bought from Japan, specifically for the project. This includes backhoes with barges, 55-tonner cranes, also with barges, tugboats, and dump trucks.

Ang also assured the public that the airport project will not cause flooding, but will instead solve it.

Ang also addressed issues raised by groups opposed to its planned new, US\$15-billion Manila International Airport project, to be built in Bulakan, Bulacan, some five kilometers away from the site of the dredging ceremony.

The airport, envisioned as the country's largest and most modern, is being framed by opposers as a potential source of flooding in the province.















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THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources and San Miguel Corp. yesterday launched the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system dredging project. The project is a vital part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program and will help address flooding in low-lying areas near the river such as Bulacan province. SMC has long been a partner of the DENR in cleanup efforts for the Tullahan river and has pledged P1 billion for this project. It acquired brand-new backhoes, cranes, barges, tug boats and dump trucks and will also provide manpower and logistics support.

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Help solve flooding in Bulacan - SMC

SAN Miguel Corporation's (SMC) P1-billion initia-

(SMC) PT-billion initia-tive to dredge and expand the Tullahan river system, will not only give the Ma-nila Bay rehabilitation project a major boost – it will also help solve flooding in Bulacan, ahead of plans to build the coun-try's largest and most mod-ern airport in the province. The project, dubbed the Tullahan-Tinajeros River Sys-

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SMC president and COO Ramon S. Ang described the Tullahan river as a spillway from Angat and Ipo dams that is supposed to drain excess water into the Manila Bay.

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Airport project will not cause flooding, it will solve it

Ang also addressed issues raised by groups opposed to its planned new, US\$15 billion Manila International Airport project,

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as the country's largest and most modern, is being framed by opposers as a potential source of flood-ing in the province. being

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They have identified the rivers, creeks, tributaries, and bodies of water that need to be cleaned, deep-

need to be cleaned, deepened, widened, and improved, to address flooding in the province.

"We will expand our dredging and clean-up operations to include these bodies of water, and provide a long-term and sustainable solution to flooding in Bulacan," he added.

Ang emphasized that the new airport, a private endeavor with no government guarantees

vate endeavor with no government guarantees or subsidies, can bring in as much as 30 million tourists and will create so many jobs and livelihood opportunities for Filipinos.

He added that many will benefit from the project, including the provinces of

including the provinces of Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Tar-lac, Pampanga, among many others.



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and San Miguel The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and San Miguel Corporation (SMC) yesterday formally launched the Tuliahan-Tinajeros river system dredging project. The project is a vital part of the Manila Bay rehabilitation program and will help address flooding in low-lying areas near the river such as Bulacan province. SMC has long been a partner of the DENR in cleanup efforts for the Tuliahan river and has pledged P1 billion for this project. It acquired brand-new backhoes, cranes, barges, tug boats and dump trucks and will also provide manpower and logistics support. DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu (4th from left) and SMC President and COO Ramon S. Ang (3rd from left) inspected the new equipment in Navotas yesterday with (from L-R) SMC VP & Special Assistant to the President Col. Ariel Querubin, DILG Usec. Epimaco Densing, Navotas Mayor Tobias Tiangco, Malabon Mayor Antolin Oreta, MMDA Chair Danilo Lim, and Bulacan Governor Daniel Fernando.







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Mayor Tiangco nagpasalamat sa DENR, San Miguel Corp. sa sustainable dredging program

NAGPASALAMAT si Mayor Toby Tiangco sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources at sa San Miguel Corp. sa pagsisimula nito ng sustenableng programa sa dredging.

"Kailangan natin ang sustainable dredging program para masiguro na ang tagumpay na makakamit natin dito ay pangmatagalan at matatamasa ng mga susunod na henerasyon," aniya sa kanyang talumpati sa opisyal na paglulunsad ng dredging ng Tullahan-Tinajeros river system.

Tullahan-Tinajeros river system.
Sinabi ng alkalde na patuloy na naiipon ang mga silt at sediment, pati na ang mga basura, sa ilalim ng mga ilog at iba pang anyong-tubig pero hindi ito regular na naiatanggal.
"Dati, hindi parating nakakapagsagawa ng dredging dahif sa kawalan ng pondo. Kaya natutuwa tayo na may

partnership ang DENR at ang San Miguel Corp., na nangakong magbibigay ng Pl billion, para sa proyektong ito," dagdag niya.

Iniutos din ni Tiangco sa mga punong barangay na mahigpit na ipatupad ang anti-littering ordinance ng lungsod.

Ang dredging ng 36.4-kilometrong Tullahan-Tinajeros river system ay bahagi ng kampanya na linisin at ayusin ang marine ecosystem ng Manila Bay.

Ang river system na ito ay mula sa La Mesa Dam sa Quezon City hanggang sa Centennial Park ng Navotas.

Ang SMC ang magsasa-

Centennial Park ng Navotas.

Ang SMC ang magsasa-gawa ng proyekto katuwang ang DENR. Parehong pi-nangunahan nina SMC Pres-ident and Chief Operating Officer, Ramon S. Ang, at DENR Secretary, Roy A. Cimatu ang paglulunsad ng dredging activities.



NAGPAUNLAK ng makabuluhang pananalita si Navotas City Mayor Toby Tiangco at nagpasalamat sa DENR, SMC sa isinagawang dredging program. kasama pa ang mga panauhing pandangal mula sa iba't-ibang lalawigan. (Beth Samson)

Maliban kay Tiangco, kabilang sa mga opisyal na dumalo sa ganap sina Vice Mayor Clint Gerenimo, mga konsehal at depart-ment heads, at mga punong barangay.

ment heads, at mga punong barangay.

Dumalo rin sina Mala-bon City Mayor, Antolin A. Oreta III; Bulacan Gov-ernor, Daniel R. Fernando; 2nd at 3rd District of Bula-can Representatives, Gavi-

ni C. Pancho at Lorna C. Silverio; at Meycauyan at Obando Mayor, Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica at Edwin C. Santos.

Kabilang din sa mga opisyal na nandoon sina Metro Manila Development Authority Chairperson, Gen. Danilo D. Lim; Department of the Interior and Local Gov't. and Benny Antiporda.

(Beth Samson)



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Start conserving water, MM residents urged

By HELEN FLORES

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) yesterday urged residents of Metro Manila to start practicing water conservation measures ahead of the dry season as the water level at Angat Dam in Bulacan remains below its standard level.

As of 6 a.m. yesterday, Angat Dam's water level was at 202.08 meters, which was below its normal high of 212 meters and normal operating level of 210

We don't expect a water crisis similar to last year's, but still, we need to conserve water because we will have less rains during the dry months," PAGASA hydrologist Edgar dela Cruz told The STAR.

The state weather bureau has not officially declared the start of the dry season in areas under Type I Climate, which includes Metro Manila.

On June 29 last year, the water supply at Angat Dam - Metro Manila's main source of potable water - fell to 157.96

meters, below its critical level of 160 meters.

The country experienced less rain and tropical cyclones in 2018 up to mid-2019 due to the El Niño phenomenon.

Dela Cruz said water allocation would be automatically suspended for hydroelectricity generation and irrigation once the water level at the dam falls below 180 meters to prioritize domestic use.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) had earlier lowered the water allocation of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

The NWRB has reduced the allocation for MWSS to 42 cubic meters per second from 46 cubic meters per second, and for irrigation to 20 cubic meters per second from 40 cubic meters per second.

The measure was implemented to avoid a repeat of last summer's water shortage, when millions of households were severely affected.

Based on the latest report of the CLIMPS (Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section), we don't expect a delay in the onset of the rainy season this year," Dela Cruz said.

"We don't see water rationing similar to last year to happen," he added.

Service upgrade

To better prepare for the coming summer months and help ensure that water supply remains available to customers, Manila Water will be undertaking service upgrade works at its Cardona Water Treatment Plant in Rizal.

This will result in temporary water service interruption affecting more than 316,000 people in 63,269 households, commercial and business establishments in 56 barangays in several towns in Rizal province, beginning tomorrow at 9 p.m. until 6 a.m. Thursday.

Affected barangays in Binan-gonan are Pag-asa, Tayuman, San Carlos, Tagpos, Bilibiran, Pantok, Palangoy, Darangan, Batingan, Calumpang, Libis, Layunan, Libid, Mahabang Parang, Lunsad, Pilapila, Limbon-Limbon, Ithan, Tatala, Macamot and Mambog; Angono: San Isidro, San Roque, Sto. Nino, San Vicente, Kalayaan, San

Pedro, Poblacion Ibaba, Poblacion Itaas and Bagumbayan; Taytay: Muzon and San Juan; Cardona: Calahan, Dalig, Looc, San Roque, Del Remedio and Iglesia; Baras: Evangelista, Mabini, Concepcion, San Miguel, San Juan, San Jose, Rizal, San Salvador and Santiago; and Jalajala: 1st District, 2nd District, 3rd District, Punta, Lubo, Pagkalinawan, Palaypalay, Baguyo and Bagumbong.

Manila Water is advising residents of those barangays to store enough water to supply their needs

during the interruption period. After service is restored, customers are advised to allow a few minutes for flushing before using the water from their taps.

With Rhodina Villanueva

fuel "for the continued operation of the dewatering activities of the Didipio Mines."

In answering OceanaGold's letter dated Dec. 11, 2019, Medialdea noted that Cimatu's office was the only one authorized to direct the MGB to closely monitor the implementation of the said authority.



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NASABAT ng mga tauhan ng Sta. Maria Municipal Police Station (MPS) sa pamumuno ni P/Lt. Col. Jaime Quiocho at mga opisyal ng Sta. Maria MENRO ang isang truck ng basura mula sa sa bayan ng Meycauayan na Itatapon sa Sitio Nigro, Barangay Balasing, sa nasabing bayan. Ang nasabing truckk ay may pekeng signage ng LGU Sta. Maria kaya kakasohan ang mga pasimuno o perpetrators nito ng usurpation of authority bukod sa paglabag sa RA 9003 o The Ecological Solid Waste Management. Act of 2000. (MICKA BAUTISTA)

. 4



Firefighters try to put out a fire that has spread to the forest in Barangay Daclan in Bokod, Benguet in this handout photo.

Wildfire destroys 1,000 hectares of Benguet forest

By RAYMUND CATINDIG

TUGUEGARAO - At least a thousand hectares of pine forest have been destroyed in an ongoing wildfire near Mount Pulag in Benguet.

The fire started last Tuesday in the jungles straddling the towns of Kabayan and Bokod.

The blaze has spread to Barangay Daclan in Kabayan, according to Fire Inspector Roy Mayao of the Bokod Bureau of Fire

Bokod has only one fire-truck, Mayo said. He said efforts to suppress the fire is augmented by villagers and personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

No casualties have been reported as the blaze is far from residential areas.

On Sunday morning, another fire hit the jungles in Barangay Eddet, located at the foot of Mt. Pulag.

Prior to this, a nine-day forest fire was declared out last Wednesday in Barangay Kabayan Poblacion.

The forest fires have left local authorities helpless as the areas were made inaccessible by rocks falling from the burning slopes and smoke along the trails.

Authorities have closed areas leading to the summit of Mt. Pulag

Meanwhile, authorities in Tublay, Benguet decided not to declare a fireout on its side after an inspection conducted yesterday showed smoke emanating from the forest in Sitio Nasleb, Barangay Ambassador.

As of yesterday, firefighters and police officers were trying to suppress the thinning fire, which could be fanned by the wind.

Mount Pulag, the highest peak in Luzon at 2,926 meters, straddles the provinces of Benguet, Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya.



PHILIPPINE DAILY BALANCED NEWS FEARLESS VIEWS INOUIRER





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KIBUNGAN WOODLAND

BENGUET LOSES MORE PINE FORESTS TO FIRE

BAGUIO CITY—Fire razed more than 150 hectares of pine forest in Kibungan town, Benguet province, over the weekend, the latest of forest fires in the Cordillera this month.

Police Col. Elmer Ragay, Benguet police director, said the fire started at Barangay Adaoay and spread to a forest area in Barangay Anchukey, all in Kibungan.

Earlier this month, fire ravaged a portion of Mt. Pulag, Luzon's highest peak, near a ranger station, a report from the Bureau of Fire Protection in the Cordillera said.

The blaze also reached a forested area at Barangay Kabayan Barrio in Kabayan town, on Feb. 17 but was put out at past noon the following day.

Ragay said the fire destroyed an old house but no one was reported hurt. The house served as a resting area for local farmers.

Another fire struck a forest area at Barangay Ambassador in Tublay town, destroying thousands of pine trees.

In February last year, at least



MOUNTAIN BLAZE A firefighter tries to put out the blaze that hit a section of a forest in Kibungan town, Benguet province.

14 incidents of forest fire were recorded in the Cordillera, mostly in Mountain Province. A farmer was killed on Feb. 18 last year in a fire that struck a watershed of Mt. Am-o that straddles Bauko and Tadian towns, both in Mountain Province. The fire destroyed a 22-ha forest area and caused the closure of mountain trekking trails.

—KIMBERLIE QUITASOLING



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Mount Pulag's Akiki Trail closed after forest fire

The famous Akiki Trail, one of the gateways to Luzon's high-est peak Mount Pulag, has been closed to public following a series of forest fires in Benguet province since last week.

In an advisory, the manage-ment of Mt. Pulag National Park said trekkers will not be allowed from entering the trail for public safety following a forest fire that occurred at dawn time on Sunday in Abucot, Barangay Eddet in the municipality of Kabayan, Benguet. The local tourism of Kabayan

has been handling all tourist activities related to Pulag trekking.

Trekkers, who are up for extra adventure, would often choose Akiki Trail to trek to the summit. It is also known as the "killer trail" due to its steep trail points.

The site gives hikers the experience of seeing the rich biodiversity of the place, including its mossy forest, grasslands, dwarf bamboo, among others.

Mount Pulag summit, on the other hand, is dubbed as the "Playground of Gods" by some locals, famous for its sea of clouds perfect for sunrise and sunset viewing.

"The park management is hereby ushering Akiki trekkers to desist from entering the southern ingress or Akiki Trail for safety," the management said.

"The southern ingress or celebrity trail is open via Ambangeg ingress and Northern ingress or Mt. Pulag morthern mountain lakes is also open," the management add-

ed. (Hanah Tabios)

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ANOMANG araw, uuwi na ang nasa 500 Pinoy seaman mula sa Diamond Princess cruise ship na nakadaong sa

Yokohama, Japan. Nasa 59 sa mga ito ang tinamaan ng Coro-na Virus Disease-19 at isa na ang gumaling at pinalabas sa ospital

Umabot sa mahigit 630 ang tinamaaan mula sa nasa 3,700 buong pasahero at crew ng nasabing barko.

Sa pag-uwi ng mga ito, dapat tayong mag-handa lahat sa posibleng paglaganap ng CO-VID-19.

HUWAG MAGRELAKS

Hindi natin dapat balewalain ang proble-mang ito dahil kahit deklaradong COVID-19-free bago iuwi ng kanya-kanyang bansa ang mga mamamayan nila na sa-kay ng Diamond Princess, pagdating nila sa kanilang bansa, napagalamang tinamaan na pala sila.

Halimbawa rito ang Israel na may 2 positibo; Australia - 4; United Kingdom - 4; United States of America - 14.

Hindi imposibleng maganap din ito sa mga Pinoy seaman na iuuwi ng ating pamahalaan anomang araw mula ngayon.

Ang masama; mga Bro, napatunayan nang umaabot sa 27 araw ang incubation period at hindi lang 14 na gaya ng karaniwang paniniwala

Op kors, magan-dang malaman na COV-ID-19-free ang mga iliuwi natin at maliwan sa Japan ang tinamaan nito at maku-quarantine pa sila ng 14 days pag-dating nila.

Kaya 28 days ang quarantine period nila.

Pero paano kung may tinamaan sa mga ito at saka lang magparamdam makaraan ang 27 araw at matapos silang makauwi dahil natapos na nila ang 14 araw na quarantine nila

NAKAGUGULAT AT MASAMANG BUNGA

Heto ngayon ang isa pang pinangangambahan ng World Health Organization,

Sa South Korea, Italy at Iran, may mga kaso ng COVID-19 na hindi konektado sa China, Hong Kong at Macau na pinakamatinding sina-

salakay ng sakit. Pero siyempra, meron ding konektado.



500 PINOY UUWI MULA DIAMOND PRINCESS BANTAYAN

'Saan galing?,' tanong ng WHO.

Habang nagtatanong ang WHO at mismong mga pamahalaan sa nasabing mga bansa, mabilis namang dumarami ang

tinatamaan ng COVID-19.

Nagdeklara na ang
South Korea ng highest
alert, pati ang Italy at Iran.

Lalo't may patay nang
5 mula sa 763 na tinama-

an sa South Korea, 6 patay mula sa 28 na tinamaan sa Iran at 3 patay mula sa 155 tinamaan sa Italy.

Ngayon pinaliral na ang mga lockdown sa transportasyon sa mga bansang ito, lalo na ang mga tinamaang lugar; pag-sasara ng mga boundary sa ibang bansa; pagsasara ng mga eskwela at mall; paghinto at pagsuspinde ng mga pagtitipon sa simbahan, sports at iba pa; paghahanap ng mga gumagawa at nagtitinda ng mga face mask, at istriktong paghahanap ng mga may dala ng CO-VID-19 para ilagay sa mga ospital at pag-aresto sa mga ayaw maki-cooperate na may sintomas ng

Galaw ang mga ito ng mga bansang nagdeklara ng state of emergency o

pinakamataas na alerto. PINAKAMASAMANG KALAGAYAN

Ang punto ni Pangu-iong Rodrigo Duterte ang dapat na pairalin: pinakamasamang kalagayan ang dapat na pairailn at ginagawa na nga ito ng

nasabing mga bansa. Hindi biro-biro ang nasa 500 Pinoy seaman o ilan sa kanila na maaaring magkalat ng COVID-

Hindi rin imposibleng magpasok ng COVID-19 ang mga overseas Filipino worker at mga dayuhan mula sa 32 bansang pinasok na ng sakit at mas marami ang mga ito dahil libo-libo sila kung dumarating sa bansa.

Sa ngayon, tanging ang pag-quarantine at pageusuri sa pamamagitaring thermometer at iba pang paraan ng pagtukoy sa mga sintomas ng CO-VID-19 ang ating ginaga-

Kasama na rin dito ang pagdadala sa mga ospital ang mga suspected na may dala ng

Ngayon, paano ang napakabilis na paglaga-nap ng sakit at pagpatay nito sa mga biktima? Paano kung mag-karoon ng mga lock-down sa transportasyon

down sa transportasyon at tao gaya ng ginaga-wa sa ibang mga bansa?

Paano ang kawalan ng epektibong mga ga-mot, face mask, sapat na ospital, doktor, nars?

Paano ang mga ma-haharang na pagkain, at suplay nito, pagsasara ng mga eskwela, mall, restoran, ospital, tinda-han ng gamot at iba pa? MABILIS NA PAGKILOS

Lumalabas sa lahat ng sitwasyon sa ibang bansa na hindi lang ang kanilang pamahalaan ang kumikilos laban sa

Pati ang mga mama-mayan kumikilos din. Kabilang sa mga

pagkilos ng mga mamamayan ang pagsun-od sa lahat ng kautusan ng mga awtoridad laban sa paglaganap ng sakit at pag-lingat ditto.

Naririyan din ang anawagan ng pama halaan at mga mama-mayan sa isa't isa na mag-ulat ukol sa pagkakaroon ng mga sintomas sa mga tao sa kanilang mga paligid para sa kaukulang aksyon gaya ng pagdadala sa mga ospital para sa tsekap at panggagamot.

Pero ang mga pagkilos at ugnayan ay dapat na mabilis at malawak dahil nga kung kumapit at manghawa ang sakit

ay ganoon na lang. Alalahaning sa South Korea, kalahati ng nahawa ang galing lamang sa iisang may COVID-19, ang 61 taong gulang na babae na tinawag na Patient 31 na naging masipag sa pagsisimba at pagdalo sa mga lamay at paglilibing ng mga namatay niyang kamag-anak.

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