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DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



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FOR DISCHARGING UNTREATED WASTEWATER

5 PASAY ESTABLISHMENTS SHUTTERED

By Jodee A. Agoncillo
@jagoncilloINQ

As part of the government's ongoing Manila Bay rehabilitation efforts, five establishments in Pasay City have been shut down for discharging untreated wastewater into the Libertad Channel that flows into the bay.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and Pasay City government on Monday served closure orders on Daraejung Korean Restaurant, Zhi-Brothers Restaurant, Song Do Won Restaurant, BHP1 Auto Works and Auto Detailing and Ocean Bay Restaurant.

The five establishments were at the HK Sun Plaza Home Depot-JK Construction

Corp. on Roxas Boulevard that was shut down last year for similar violations.

"The authority finds prima facie evidence that the discarded untreated wastewater coming from the respondents' establishments is of immediate threat to life, public health, safety or [the] welfare [of] animals or plant life," LLDA general manager Jaime Medina said in his March 9 cease and desist order.

"In this time of COVID-19, we should also protect our waters and make sure that waters are clean and the waters going to it," he added.

The five establishments violated section 27 of the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 and DENR Administrative Order No. 2005-10 or the implementing rules and regulations of the Clean Water

Act and LLDA Rules and Regulations under Republic Act 4850, the law creating LLDA, officials said.

Pasay Mayor Imelda Calixto-Rubiano, on the other hand, said in her closure order that the establishments had violated sections 6 and 13 of City Ordinance 5931, or the Sewage and Septage Management System of Pasay for their failure to comply with proper sewage disposal requirements, on top of the dumping of seepage, untreated wastewater and solid waste into drainages, canals, rivers and other natural and artificial waterways and open areas.

They also reportedly operated facilities that discharged regulated water pollutants without the required permits or after these had been revoked. INQ



DENR pushes bamboo as alternative to wood

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu has reiterated his call to Filipinos to consider planting and using bamboo as wood alternative in order to help increase the country's forest cover.

Cimatu made the appeal even as he revealed that the government is now shifting to bamboo plantation under its flagship reforestation initiative - the

Expanded National Greening Program (ENGP).

"Our effort now is to plant bamboo and probably in five to six years, we can harvest it to make it a wood substitute," Cimatu said.

"Instead of cutting the trees in the forest, we will use bamboo. So, this is really a shifting strategy," he added.

The other day, Cimatu and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. (MMPC) and SteelAsia Foundation Inc. (SAFI) signed memorandums of agreement in connection with their participation in the ENGP.

Around 20 percent of

the ENGP plantation sites are currently set aside for bamboo, but Cimatu wants to increase this to at least 40 percent.

"We are slowly shifting to bamboo plantations," Cimatu said. "The reason for that is we have to be aggressive in improving our forest cover. We want to double it so we will accelerate bamboo plantation," he added.

Cimatu said that "engineered" bamboo can be used as a substitute to traditional hardwood building materials, thus eliminating the need to cut trees in the forest.



Magtanim ng kawayan upang maiwasan ang pagbaha, landslides

ISINUSULONG ngayon ng probinsiyal na pamahalaan ng North Cotabato, ang malawakang pagtanim ng kawayan bilang solusyon upang mapigilan ang mga pagbaha at landslide sa probinsiya.

Nitong Linggo, pinangunahan ni Governor Nancy Catamco ang isang bamboo planting activity sa bayan ng Makilala, isa sa mga lugar na sinalanta ng serye ng mga paglindol noong nakaraang taon.

"I am pushing this bamboo planting program in support of our rehabilitation and rebuilding efforts of affected communities," pagbabahagi nito sa mga opisyal ng Makilala, kung saan nasa mahigit 10,000 residente ang nanatiling nasa evacuation matapos lisanin ang kanilang mga nawasak na tahanan dahil sa mga paglindol noong 2019.

Binigyan naman ng mga construction materials ang nasa 300 pamilya sa isang barangay na matinding napinsala ng mga lindol.

Bukod sa mga construction materials, nagkaloob din ang probinsiyal na pamahalaan ng tulong pangkabuhayan sa mga pamilya, tulad ng mga binhi at iba pang planting materials upang makapag-umpisa ng kanilang income-generating projects.

Ayon kay Catamco nagkaloob ang North Cotabato provincial environment and natural resources office (PENRO) ng bamboo seedlings para sa planting activity.

"The bamboo trees are giving us protection, it is protecting us from landslides, from flash floods and eventually give livelihood to the locals," aniya.

Mainam na panlaban ang kawayan sa pagguho ng lupa, landslide at pagbaha. Maaari rin itong makapaglabas ng hanggang 35 porsiyentong oxygen kumpara sa iba pang uri ng puno.



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MASUNGI GEORESERVES FIGHT AGAINST QUARRYING

ON March 3, 2020, just two days after my friend Ann Dumaliang, project manager of Masungi Nature Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary in Baras, Rizal, urged me to sign a petition against illegal quarrying in the area, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, along with Usec. Benny Antiporda, personally went to the reforestation site and seized all remaining barbed wires and nails hammered on the trees by a quarry company.

A very grateful Ann said it shows that protecting Masungi "is a priority of the government and that its environment agenda continues to be alive and well." She said it is a strong signal that violations of the laws that protect the environment will not be tolerated by the Duterte administration.

"Our heartfelt thank you to DENR Sec. Cimatu and Usec. Antiporda

for going all the way to Masungi. They joined us in solidarity and strongly conveyed to everyone - across ranks - that the quarries encroaching in the Masungi restoration and conserved areas will be cancelled," Ann said.

During his visit, Sec. Cimatu ordered the immediate closure of the quarry as well as the cancellation of the three MPSAs issued within the area.

Undersecretary Antiporda gave the assurance that "Head on, we will deal with the faults of the past."

Ann said that together with the community and thousands of petitioners, they will continue to hold the Secretary to his word and remain vigilant until the following orders are fully implemented: closure of the quarries; cancellation of three MPSAs encroaching on Masungi's Strict Nature Reserve and Wildlife



Sanctuary; investigation and prosecution of private and government parties involved in the illegal issuance of permits; and the setting up of a DENR Enforcement Center in the Masungi Geopark Project.

"We are excited and look forward to an even stronger partnership with the government for the success of our partnership in restoring and rewilding some 3,000 hectares of degraded land around the Masungi Georeserve through the collaboration of the private and public sector, civil society, academe, and volunteers," Ann said.

She said she also looks forward to decisive government action against other equally serious challenges in implementing the project,

including professional squatters, treasure-hunters and land trafficking. In thanking everyone--especially Secretary Cimatu and Usec Antiporda--for supporting the movement to protect Masungi against quarrying and the pillage of precious natural resources, Anri said it is a victory for Masungi and for future generations of Filipinos.

Masungi is located in the Upper Marikina Watershed where rainwater is retained and regulated only by healthy land and forests before it flows down to the Marikina and Pasig Rivers. If the forests are not restored, not only water supply would be lost but there is also the risk of floods and landslides like those seen in Typhoon Ondoy in Marikina.



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UNTV CUP FINALS

DENR completes title sweep

Department of Environment and Natural Resources completed its own Cinderella story, sweeping Armed Forces of the Philippines in their best-of-three title series to bag the 8th UNTV

Cup before a huge crowd Monday at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

The high-scoring duo of Ed Rivera and Ralph Lansang produced big numbers again as the DENR Warriors with-

stood the AFP Cavaliers' repeated rallies to prevail in Game 2 of the finals 99-91 and become the first newcomer to win the tournament for public servants since Judiciary won the inaugural event eight years ago.

In a follow-up to his 15-point performance in the team's 90-73 win in the opener on March 1, Rivera fired 24 points, including 12 in the playoff period, to emerge as the Finals MVP.

He got able support from Lansang and Ryan Abanes who drilled in 22 and 20 points, respectively. Former Letran star Boyet Bautista led AFP with 29 points.

For winning the title against a team looking to become the first-to-back champion of the league, the Warriors' chosen charity - the Environmental Heroes Foundation Incorporated - won a tax-free P4 million top prize from UNTV headed by Dr. Daniel S. Razon.



Players and officials of the DENR Warriors pose after ruling the 8th UNTV Cup.



DENR Warriors crowned UNTV champs

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) completed its own Cinderella story, sweeping Armed Forces of the Philippines in their best-of-three title series to rule the 8th UNTV Cup last Monday at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

The high-scoring duo of Ed Rivera and Ralph Lansang produced huge numbers once again as the DENR Warriors withstood the AFP Cavaliers' repeated rallies to prevail in Game 2, 99-91, and become the first newcomer to win the tournament since the

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to-back champion of the league, the Warriors' chosen charity - the Environmental Heroes Foundation Inc. - received a tax-free P4 million top prize from UNTV president Dr. Daniel Razon.

AFP Educational Benefits System Office, the chosen charity of AFP, got P2 million while NHA's Provident Fund Association Inc. received P1 million for third place in the annual event sponsored by Bro. Eli Soriano of Ang Dating Daan and Members Church of God International.



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Warriors sweep Cavs in UNTV Cup

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources completed its own Cinderella story, sweeping Armed Forces of the Philippines in their best-of-three title series to win the 8th UNTV Cup before a huge crowd Monday at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

The high-scoring duo of Ed Rivera and Ralph Lansang produced huge numbers once again as the DENR Warriors withstood the AFP Cavaliers' repeated rallies to prevail in Game 2, 99-91, and become the first newcomer to win the tournament for public servants since the Judiciary won the inaugural event eight years ago.

In a follow-up to his 15-point performance in the team's 90-73 win in the opener on March 1, Rivera fired 24 points, including 12 in the payoff period, to emerge as the Finals MVP.

He got ample support from Lansang and Ryan Abanes, who drilled in 22 and 20 points, respectively. Former Letran star Boyet Bautista led AFP with 29 points.

For winning the title against a team looking to become the first-to-back champion of the league, the Warriors' chosen charity—the Environmental Heroes Foundation Incorporated—won a tax-free P4 million top prize from UNTV headed by Dr. Daniel S. Razon.

AFP Educational Benefits System Office, the charity of AFP, got P2 million, while NHA's Provident Fund Association Inc., got P1 million for finishing third in the annual event sponsored by Bro. Eli Soriano of Ang Dating Daan and Members Church of God International.

Meantime, the PITC Global Traders won the 3x3 side event after beating the PhilHealth Plus, thus rewarding their chosen charity the P100,000 top prize

A total of P10 million was distributed to various institutions with the 5th to 12th placers giving P100,000 each to their charities.

Sports



Players and officials of the DENR Warriors pose with their beneficiaries after winning the 8th UNTV Cup via a two-game sweep of last year's champion AFP.



DENR Warriors new UNTV Cup champs

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources completed a Cinderella story on Monday, completing a sweep of Armed Forces of the Philippines in their best-of-three title series to win the 8th UNTV Cup before a huge crowd at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

The high-scoring duo of Ed Rivera and Ralph Lansang produced huge numbers anew as the DENR Warriors withstood the AFP Cavaliers' repeated rallies to score a 99-91 win and become the first newcomer to win the tournament for public

servants since the Judiciary won the inaugural event eight years ago. In a follow-up to his 15-point performance in the team's 90-73 win in the opener last March 1, Rivera fired 24 points, including 12 in the playoff period, to emerge as the Finals MVP.

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Sharing the limelight with the Warriors was NHA's Marvin Mercado who emerged as the season's MVP aside from winning the Defensive Player award. He also led the Mythical Selection that included AFP's Darwin Cordero, PhilHealth's Jonathan Aldave, DENR's Melvin Bangal and Judiciary's Chester Tolomia.

Aldave, a teammate of Bautista at Letran, also took the Scoring Champion award.



Warriors reign supreme in UNTV

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) completed its own Cinderella story, sweeping Armed Forces of the Philippines in their best-of-three title series to win the 8th UNTV Cup before a huge crowd Monday at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

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The scores:

DENR 99 - Rivera 24, Lansang 22, Abanes 20, Gamboa 11, Parreño 6, Atablanca 5, Ayson 5, Bangal 4, Mamac 2.

AFP 91 - Bautista 29, Almerol 17, Lumongsod 15, Cordero 11, Pascual 7, Tan 7, Sergio 3, Araneta 2.

Quarterscores: 20-13, 49-34, 73-67, 99-91.



PLAYERS and officials of the DENR Warriors pose with their beneficiaries after winning the 8th UNTV Cup via a two-game sweep of last year's champion AFP.



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THE ULTIMATE WARRIORS

DENR sweeps AFP, completes Cinderella run

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AFP Educational Benefits

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Quarters: 20-13, 49-34, 73-67, 99-91.



DENR kampeon sa UNTV

Gumawa ng kasaysayan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) nang walisin sa best-of-three ang former champion Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) para kunin ang kampeonato sa 8th UNTV Cup 2019-2020 nitong Lunes sa Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Ang mga player at official ng DENR Warriors na nakipagkodakan sa beneficiaries nila tapos maghari sa 8th UNTV Cup 2019-2020 via two-game sweep kontra sa last year's champion AFP Cavaliers. (BM)



Sumandal ang DENR Warriors kina Ed Rivera at Ralph Lansang na mga tumikada ng 24 at 22 points para tiklupin ang AFP Cavaliers, 99-91 at ibigay sa bagong saltang koponan ang titulo, unang nakagawa nito sa walong taon.

Si Rivera rin ang umangas sa

DENR sa Game 1 sa kinayod na 15 markers para maging Finals MVP sa taunang torneo na mga itinaguyod nina Bro. Eli Soriano ng Ang Dating Daan at Members Church of God International.

Inihandog din ng Warriors sa kanilang napiling charity na Environmental Heroes Foundation Incorporated ang P4M tax-free top prize na handog ng UNTV mula sa pangunguna ni Dr. Daniel S. Razon.

Nakakuha ang Cavaliers na pinangunahan ni Boyet Bautista sa 29 markers ng P2M tax-free at binigay sa AFP Educational Benefits System Office habang tig-P1M ang nakamit ng third at fourth placers.

Ang P1TC Global Traders naman ang kumubra ng kampeonato sa 3x3 competition at P100,000 cash prize nang manaig kontra PhilHealth Plus.



Ways to cope with COVID: Rody to spur Bora tourism

Sunbathing in Boracay

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte said he will visit Boracay to go swimming to spur domestic tourism after the country's tourism industry suffered a setback due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) that has claimed more than 4,000 people around the globe.

In a press briefing, the President even joked that he will visit Boracay if Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat will accompany him to swim.

President Duterte quickly made it clear that his latest statement was not meant to offend Puyat. I'm not being rude to you. This is not a feminist thing," he said.

Duterte assured the public that "everything is safe in our country" in terms of health, law and order and accessibility.

The popular tourist island was shut down for six months in 2018 to pave the way for massive rehabilitation amid pollution woes.

Avoid panic buying

The Philippine Amalgamated Supermarkets Association on Wednesday urged consumers not to panic and if needed, buy only "twice" what they need in the wave of increasing number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the country.

Steven Cua, association president said in an interview with CNN that there have been a spike in consumption of face masks, alcohol and other cleaning supplies recently and the industry has not imposed restrictions or regulated the sale of these items.

Prison visits suspended

The Bureau of Corrections has suspended visitation privileges in its prison facilities for a week as a precautionary measure amid the threat of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

In its advisory, the BuCor's Public Information Office said suspension will start on Wednesday, March 11, and will cover the New Bilibid Prison and all the BuCor's operating prison and penal farms.

M/V Grand Princess

The Philippine government is working closely with the United States and Princess Cruises on the repatriation of Filipinos aboard the *M/V Grand Princess* which carried more than a dozen who tested positive for the COVID-19.

Philippine Consul General to San Francisco Henry Bensurto Jr. said there are 529 Filipino crew and nine Filipino passengers on the ship that has reportedly started disembarking guests in the Port of Oakland on Tuesday morning.

CSC exams put off

The Civil Service Commission suspends the conduct of the March 15 Career Service Examination-Pen and Paper Test (CSE-PPT) nationwide until further notice.

The tests will be conducted in 66 testing locations nationwide with an estimated 293,845 individuals nationwide registered to take the test.

Mobile alerts

Senator Grace Poe has urged health and civil defense authorities to send the public free mobile alerts on the COVID-19 outbreak to ease widespread fears and help citizens make informed choices.

TV info drive

Senator Nancy Binay rallied television networks to share their artists to work together on initiatives in creating awareness surrounding COVID-19. **Vito Barcelo, Rey E. Requejo, Joel Zurbano, Macon Ramos-Araneta**



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Duterte to push through with Boracay visit – Palace

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte will push through with his scheduled visit to Boracay on Thursday amid the threat of the novel coronavirus disease 2019, Malacañang said on Tuesday.

Palace spokesman Salvador Panelo said Duterte would lead the distribution of land titles to agrarian reform beneficiaries in Malay, Aklan.

Duterte will also meet some of the guests of Tourism Secretary Bernadette "Berna" Romulo Puyat.

In a news briefing on Monday night, Duterte said he might be persuaded to visit Boracay if Puyat would accompany him.

He joked that he wanted Puyat to go swimming with him.

"Yes, *kasi wala nang tao. Ito kasing si Berna eh, Wala na magpunta. Sabi ko, 'Sige, magpunta ako, pero maligo tayó'* (Yes, because the place is deserted. Berna said only a few people are visiting the place. I said, 'Okay, I'll go, but we should go swimming')," Duterte said, eliciting laughter from some officials.

Meanwhile, Panelo said the President would continue with his public engagements despite the Presidential Security Group's plans to limit his movement.

The President earlier said he would not decline invitations to events and would continue to "shake hands with everybody."

CATHERINE S. VALENTE



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President's Boracay trip set Thursday

PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. Duterte's Boracay trip, which was originally announced as a kick-off event for his tour around the Philippines to promote domestic tourism amid the new coronavirus spread, will push through on Thursday, his spokesman confirmed Tuesday. However, the visit will primarily be for the distribution of land certificates to agrarian reform beneficiaries, Spokesperson Salvador S. Panelo said. "There's a schedule in the distribution of land certificates on Thursday afternoon... I don't think he will go around," Mr. Panelo said. — **Gillian M. Cortez**



Duterte to visit Boracay

President Duterte is expected to push through with his visit to Boracay this Thursday for events related to tourism and agrarian reform, Malacañang announced Tuesday.

Based on a tentative schedule, the President is expected to conduct an inspection of Boracay, which underwent a six-month closure for rehabilitation in 2018.

Duterte will also lead the distribution of certificate of land ownership awards to farmer beneficiaries during his visit to Malay, Aklan.

"There is a scheduled event of distribution of land certifications on Thursday afternoon," Panelo said during a Palace briefing Tuesday when asked about the President's visit to Boracay.

"I don't think he will go around. After the event, there's another event in the evening, at one of the hotels I think to meet with some tourists, guests

of Secretary Berna (Romulo Puyat)," he added.

Puyat earlier invited the President to visit Boracay as part of government's efforts to promote domestic tourism despite the coronavirus threat. The government has encouraged Filipinos to visit various travel destinations in the country instead of abroad amid the coronavirus spread.

Panelo noted that the President is expected to continue with his public engagements despite the Presidential Security Group (PSG) plans to limit his movement.

"Even if you limit him, he does not want to be limited," he said.

The President earlier said he would not decline invitations to events and will continue to "shake hands with everybody." He found the PSG's "no touch" policy on him as "kalokohan." (Genalyn Kabiling)



Duterte tuloy sa Boracay trip kahit may banta ng COVID

HINDI mapipigilan si Pangulong Duterte na bumisita sa isa sa mga pangunahing tourist destination ang Boracay Island sa darating na Huwebes kahit na may panawagan ang gobyerno na ipagpaliban ang pagbibiyaha dahil sa coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Ito ang kinumpirma ni Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo sa press briefing sa Malakanyang.

Tutungo si Pangulong Duterte sa isla ng Boracay para mamahagi ng certificates of land ownership awards sa Barangay Manoc-Manoc sa bayan ng Malay, ayon kay Panelo.

Nakatakda rin aniya magkaroon ng pulong hinggil sa turismo sa araw din ng Huwebes.

Sa isang pulong sa Malakanyang nitong Lunes pabiro niyang sinabi kay Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat na mag-swimming siya na kasama sa Boracay.

"Ito kasing si Berna eh. Wala na magpunta. Sabi ko, 'Sige, magpunta ako pero maligo tayo.' Totoo. Hindi kita gi—hindi kita bastos ha. This is not — among tawag niyan? Feminist ano," wika ni Pangulong Duterte.

"If you look at the open sea, it's endless. Mabubulag ka (You'll be blinded)," ani Pangulo.

Ito ang unang pagbisita ng Pangulo sa Boracay mula ng anim na buwan nang ipasara para sa isinagawang rehabilitasyon noong 2018 at nakitaan ng pagsisikap na ma-promote ang turismo dahil sa biglang pagbagsak ng mga banyagang turista dahil sa COVID-19.

(Vanz Fernandez)



Businessinbriefs

DENR ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES TO BACOOR PROJECTS SLAMMED

MILITANT fishermen's group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) has criticized the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for issuing an environmental permit to reclamation projects in Manila Bay covering 420 hectares of its fishing waters. In a statement on Tuesday, Pamalakaya Chairman Fernando Hicap said the department would "regret this," and that it should expect its office to be "flooded and stormed by the furious [fishermen] and coastal residents on a regular basis for consenting to anti-environment and anti-people projects." He lamented that the DENR had "completely separated from its mandate in protecting the environment" by providing an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) to twin reclamation projects in Bacoor City, Cavite, being pushed as main proponent by its City Mayor Lani Mercado-Revilla."

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



Balanga opens 3 temporary sanitation facilities

BALANGA CITY—The city government has recently turned over three temporary sanitation facilities to Barangay Talisay.

City Administrator Rudy de Mesa said during the turnover ceremony that the installation of three barangay bathrooms is in line with the health initiative of the leadership of Mayor Francis Garcia and Vice Mayor Vianca Venzon-Gozon.

The top city officials wanted the project to be replicated in other barangays, De Mesa said.

Garcia and Venzon-Gozon are responsible for many laudable programs of the city in the aspects

of, aside from health, education, barangay empowerment, child protection, and solid waste management, among others, the city administrator said.

City Environment Officer Nerissa Mateo joined the turnover, which was received by Capt. Remo Camacho and members of the barangay council, witnessed by some barangay residents.

De Mesa also asked barangay folks to keep the community clean.

The administrator also urged barangay folks to support the relocation program of the city, as many houses are situated precariously along Talisay River. **Butch Gunio**



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BOTTLE-TO-BOTTLE

COCA COLA PH, PARTNER PUTTING UP P1-B RECYCLING FACILITY

By Roy Stephen C. Canivel
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Coca-Cola has partnered with one of the world's largest producers of plastic bottles to put a P1 billion recycling facility, which will be the largest of its kind here in the Philippines.

Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc. (CCBPI), the bottling arm of Coca-Cola in the country, signed a joint venture agreement with Indorama Ventures to put up the facility called PETValue, the company said in a statement on Tuesday.

PETValue, a name coined after a kind of plastic, will be the largest state-of-the-art bottle-to-bottle recycling facility in the country. Construction of the facility in General Trias, Cavite, is expected to be completed next year.

The facility will have a capacity to recycle 30,000 metric tons (MT) of used plastic bottles a year, or almost 2 million plastic bottles.

Out of this, it will be able to yield 16,000 MT of recycled bottles yearly.

CCBPI said PETValue would deploy cutting-edge technologies and industry-leading best practices to employ the safest and most advanced recycling process for plastic bottles made from PET (polyethylene terephthalate) material.

"Through this facility, we will boost the collection rates of clear plastic bottles—collecting not just Coca-Cola bottles, but even those from other companies," said Gareth McGeown, CEO of CCBPI.

This is in line with the company's global campaign called the World Without Waste. Its goal is to collect and recycle the equivalent of every bottle and can it sells by 2030.

Chemicals producer Indorama Ventures had put up its first PET facility in 1995, according to the company website.

In essence, used bottles are

sorted, sterilized and crushed into small flakes that, when melted, can be made into something else—such as bottles.

It is this experience that Indorama brings to the table in partnering with Coca-Cola, the biggest beverage brand in the world.

"Indorama Ventures has always been committed to sustainability, and to ensuring that the technologies we use are advanced, efficient, and meet or even surpass industry standards so that we can better manage our environmental impact," said Yashovardhan Lohia, chief recycling officer of Indorama Ventures.

"We firmly believe that a circular economy for plastic bottles, particularly PET plastic bottles, is possible and must be established. We cannot let the potential of this recyclable resource go to waste," he added.

INQ



Coca-Cola and Thailand firm tie up to build recycling facility

COCA-COLA Beverages Philippines, Inc. (CCBPI) partnered with a Thailand-based firm to develop the P1 billion largest bottle-to-bottle recycling facility in the Philippines.

The Philippine bottling arm of Coca-Cola in a press release on Monday said it had signed a joint venture agreement with Indorama Ventures Public Co. Ltd. to build the facility in Cavite by 2021.

"Cavite being the site of such a crucial infrastructure to our World Without Waste goal is testament to the province's commitment to help advance the country's environmental goals," CCBPI chief executive officer Gareth McGeown said.

World Without Waste is Coca-Cola's aim to collect and recycle the equivalent of every bottle and can it sells.

The "PETValue" facility is expected to ensure that 100% recyclable PET (poly-

ethylene terephthalate) plastic bottles can be collected and reused.

PETValue can process 30,000 metric tons of plastic per year, or the equivalent of two billion pieces of plastic bottles. The facility's output amounts to 16,000 metric tons of recycled PET resin.

"Through this facility, we will boost the collection rates of clear plastic bottles — collecting not just Coca-Cola bottles, but even ones from other companies. The facility will also support Filipino jobs as well as the livelihoods of people within the waste value chain," Mr. McGeown said.

Indorama Ventures is a global petrochemical and wool yarn firm. The company, which produces virgin PET resin, runs several PET recycling facilities worldwide.

Indorama Ventures chief recycling officer Yashovardhan Lohia said that the company uses technologies that meet

industry standards to manage environmental impact.

"We firmly believe that a circular economy for plastic bottles, particularly PET plastic bottles, is possible and must be established. We cannot let the potential of this recyclable resource go to waste. This is a philosophy shared by Coca-Cola, and our partnership with them is testament to how two organizations that share the same principles can institutionalize sustainability practices among industries and be of benefit to local communities."

Meanwhile, Nestlé S.A. signed the European Plastics Pact aiming to create 100% recyclable or reusable packaging and reduce the use of virgin plastics by a third by 2025.

The pact includes companies, governments, and non-government organizations.

Nestlé in a statement on Tuesday said that the company has invested in the production of food grade or safe plastics, and is trialling pet food and coffee refilling systems.

The company said it aims to signal recycling companies to focus on food grade material to create a new market, as it is currently cheaper to create packaging from virgin plastics.

Nestlé chief executive officer for Europe, Middle East and North Africa Marco Settembri said the company is pleased to join the commitment.

"One of our joint objectives is to create a circular economy by improving collection, sorting and recycling schemes across Europe. Already today a new Vittel plastic bottle is manufactured out of used ones. Tomorrow, we want to make sure that also other packaging, such as our wrappers and pouches, can be recycled into new food packaging." —

Jenina P. Ibañez



Duterte assures sufficient water supply

By GENALYN D. KABILING

The country has sufficient supply of water as the government steps up its efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease, President Duterte said on Monday. ▶6

Duterte assures sufficient... 1◀

The President gave the assurance after vowing to “fight all the way” to pursue the construction of the controversial Kaliwa dam to further boost water supply.

“Meron ‘yan. 2020? Meron ‘yan sigurado ako (There is water. 2020? I’m certain we will have that),” he said during a press conference at the Palace Monday after a meeting with the government task force on combating the coronavirus threat.

Health authorities have repeatedly called on the public to observe health precautions such as proper hand hygiene to avoid getting the coronavirus disease. The country’s water situation came to light amid concerns of the shortage that hit Metro Manila and nearby provinces during the summer months last year.

In the same press conference, the President said he is ready to do battle in court to press for the construction of the Kaliwa Dam project. He insisted that he would not be stopped from pursuing this project since the nation’s water supply is at stake.

“I will force the issue, and I will battle with them in court. And I hope

that the judges and the justices would understand,” he said.

“Talagang hindi rin ako magpapigil. Kasi kung magpapigil ako, wala kayong tubig. ‘Yung apo ninyo. Pipilitin ko talaga ‘yan (I won’t be stopped. If I stop, then, you, your grandchildren will have no water. I will really pursue it),” he said.

The construction of the China-funded Kaliwa dam project in Quezon aims to ease the dependency on Angat Dam for water supply as it is projected to provide an additional 600 million liters of water per day to Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Some groups, however, have opposed the project due to concerns it would displace many indigenous people living in the area.

Duterte said he hopes to complete the water dam project “within the next two years.”

Last year, the President said he was considering using “extraordinary powers” to hasten the completion of the Kaliwa project. He asserted that the project would benefit more people in terms of enhancing water supply.



Duterte assures public of enough water supply

By **ALEXIS ROMERO**

As the Philippines grapples with the rising cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), President Duterte has given assurance that the country's water supply is enough to enable the public to observe proper hygiene and prevent the spread of the illness.

"(For) 2020? We have (enough supply), I'm sure, as long as there is no reservation," Duterte said at a press briefing at Malacañang last Monday.

Duterte reiterated that he was ready to "nationalize" the water industry if water firms fail to provide uninter-

rupted service to consumers.

The health department has urged the public to observe proper hygiene as a preventive measure against COVID-19. There have been concerns, however, that water supply issues during the summer months could pose a challenge to efforts to contain the spread of the disease.

The President said he is determined to defend the Kaliwa and Wawa dam projects before the courts to ensure that the Philippines would have adequate water supply.

"I am forcing the issue of the Kaliwa... the Wawa because if I do not do it within the next two years... Filipinos would die because

there would be no water," he said.

"I will force the issue and I will battle with them in court. And I hope that the judges and the justices would understand. I won't be stopped. If I do, you won't have water. Even your grandchildren. I will really force the issue. I said I will fight all the way," he added.

The P12.2-billion Kaliwa Dam to be constructed in Quezon province is one of the government projects funded by Chinese loans. Some groups are worried that the project may cause floods, destroy the biodiversity of Sierra Madre and displace communities.



Duterte vows to fight for Kaliwa Dam

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has vowed to "fight all the way" to pursue the construction of the controversial Kaliwa Dam to further boost the supply of water.

Duterte said he would not be stopped from pushing the project since the country's water supply was at stake.

"I will force the issue, and I will battle with them in court. I hope that the judges and the justices would understand," he told reporters on Monday night.

"Talagang hindi rin ako magpapigil. Kasi kung magpapigil ako, wala kayong tubig. Yung apo ninyo. Pipilitin ko talaga 'yan (I won't be stopped. If I stop, then, you and your grandchildren will have no water. I will really pursue it). I will fight all the way," he added.

The President said he hoped to complete the China-funded

dam project "within the next two years."

Once completed, the Kaliwa Dam would provide Metro Manila 600 million liters of water per day.

Some groups and personalities have opposed the dam project, claiming that it would displace members of indigenous tribes.

Duterte gave the public assurances that there would be enough water so that the public could also observe preventive measures against the new coronavirus.

"Meron 'yan sigurado ako (There will be enough water supply, I'm sure of it)," he said as he again warned to industrialize the water industry if water concession-

aires failed to cooperate.

"I will industrialize the water industry, and the government will do the construction. And we will force the issue," he continued.

Since last year, the President has repeatedly threatened to order a military takeover of water service operations if water concessionaires Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. refuse to accept the government's renegotiated water contracts.

He earlier threatened to sue for economic plunder water concessionaires and former government officials who had a hand in the onerous water agreements after a tribunal ordered the Philippines to pay P7.3 billion to Manila Water.

Duterte has already ordered the crafting of a new and "better" concession agreements with the two water firms.

Manila Water and Maynilad, however, have yet to accept the proposed water deals.



President Rodrigo Duterte is all for the construction of the Kaliwa Dam project. PHOTO BY J. GERARD SEGUIA



Duterte sa Kaliwa Dam project: Pipilitin ko talaga 'yan

May sapat na suplay ng tubig ang bansa habang pinapaigting ng gobyerno ang mga pagsisikap na makontrol ang pagkalat ng coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), idineklara ni Pangulong Duterte nitong Lunes.

Tiniyak ito ng Pangulo pagkatapos mangako na "fight all the way" para matuloy ang pagtatayo ng kontrobersyal na Kaliwa dam upang lalo pang mapalakas ang suplay ng tubig.

"Meron 'yan. 2020? Meron 'yan sigurado ako," sinabi niya sa press conference sa Palasyo nitong Lunes matapos pulungin ang government task force sa paglaban sa banta ng coronavirus.

Ang mga awtoridad ng kalusugan ay paulit-ulit na nanawagan sa publiko na obserbahan ang pag-iingat sa kalusugan tulad ng wastong kalinisan ng kamay upang maiwasan na kapitan ng COVID-19. Ang kalagayan ng tubig sa bansa ay luminaw sa gitna ng mga alalahanin sa kakulangan na tumama sa Metro Manila at kalapit na mga lalawigan sa mga buwan ng tag-init noong nakaraang taon.

Sa parehong press conference, sinabi ng Pangulo na handa siyang lumaban sa korte upang igiit ang pagtatayo ng Ka-

liwa Dam project. Iginiit niya na hindi siya titigil sa pagpupursige sa proyektong ito dahil ang nakataya ang suplay ng tubig ng bansa.

"I will force the issue, and I will battle with them in court. And I hope that the judges and the justices would understand," aniya.

"Talagang hindi rin ako magpapigil. Kasi kung magpapigil ako, wala kayong tubig. Yung apo ninyo. Pipilitin ko talaga 'yan," aniya.

Ang pagtatayo ng China-funded Kaliwa dam project sa Quezon ay naglalayong mapawi ang pagsandal sa Angat Dam para sa suplay ng tubig dahil inasahang magbibigay ito ng karagdagang 600 milyong litro ng tubig bawat araw sa Metro Manila at kalapit na mga lalawigan.

Gayunman, salungat ang ilang mga grupo sa proyekto dahil sa mga pag-aalala na mawawalan ng tirahan ang maraming kafutubo na nakatira sa lugar.

Sinabi ni Duterte na umaasa siya na makukumpleto ang water dam project "within the next two years."

Genalyn D. Kabling



Tubig kontra coronavirus

KALIWA DAM IGIGIIT NI DUTERTE

ni ROSE NOVENARIO

NAKAHANDA si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na makipag-bakbakan sa korte para igiit ang konstruksiyon ng kontrobersiyal na China-funded Kaliwa Dam.

"I will - I will force the issue, and I will battle with them in court. And I hope that the judges and the justices would understand. Talagang hindi rin ako magpapapigil," anang Pangulo sa press conference kamakalawa ng gabi sa Palasyo.

Katuwiran niya, kung pipigilan niya ang Kaliwa Dam project, mawawalan ng supply ng tubig matapos ang dalawang taon.

"Kasi kung magpapa-

pigil ako, wala kayong tubig. 'Yung apo ninyo. Pipilitin ko talaga 'yan. I will - I will force the issue. I said I will fight all the way," sabiniya. Tiniyak ng Pangulo na may sapat na reserbang tubig hanggang matapos ang taong kasalukuyan para magamit ng mga mamamayan kontra coronavirus.

"Mayroon 'yan sigurado ako. Basta kung walang reservation, I'm warning you and I'm warning everybody, I will industrialize the water industry, and government will do the construction," sabi niya.

Kinompirma kama-kailan ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador

Panelo, sa darating na Hulyo o Agosto isasagawa ang groundbreaking ceremony para sa Kaliwa Dam project.

Matatandaan, naging masidhi ang pagtutol ng mga residente, Dumagat tribe, environmental groups at Simbahang Katolika sa Kaliwa Dam project mula pa noong administrasyong Arroyo at Aquino dahil itatayo ito sa Philippine Fault at Valley Fault System, isa itong 'debt trap' na magiging sanhi nang pagbaha sa watershed mula Infanta hanggang Tanay, Rizal; at binabalewala ang epekto ng climate change.

(ROSE NOVENARIO)



Carpio, COA memo question bidding process for Kaliwa Dam

FORMER Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio called on the government to include the “anomalous bidding” of the construction of the Kaliwa Dam in Quezon in its review of so-called “onerous” contracts between the government and private companies.

Carpio described the Kaliwa Dam project as the ‘mother of onerous contracts,’ citing a Commission on Audit memorandum on the bidding.

“In summary, it can be deduced that the two bidders/contractors were included merely to comply with the ‘at least three bidders’ requirement as stated under the Procurement Law. Likewise, the procurement of the project is with the semblance of a competitive bidding when in reality, it is a negotiated contract from the inception of the bidding process,” the COA memo said.

China during the Kaliwa Dam bidding submitted three Chinese contractors, namely the Consortium of Guangdong Foreign Construction Company and Yuantian Engineering Company (Consortium), Power Construction Corporation of China (PCCC) and China Energy Engineering Corporation (CEEC). The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, which conducted the bidding, limited the auction to the three Chinese contractors.

The first bidder, the Consortium, was disqualified because it did not submit the required documents, despite the clear instruction to bidders that failure to present the required papers would result in disqualification. One of the two members of the Consortium is a state-owned company of China, while the other, whose ownership is not clear, has undertaken many projects for the Chinese government.

“In short, the COA saw the “reality”—that the bidding was a sham. The Communist Party of China, which controls the three bidders, already chose from the very start CEEC as the winning bidder and instructed the other two bidders to simply disqualify themselves. The bidding was ‘lutong macau,’” added Carpio.



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NGAYONG lumulundag ang bilang ng mga nagpopositibo sa Corona Virus Disease-19, hindi maganda ang nagaganap sa paligid.

May takot na malaganap sa mabilisang pagdami ng mga positibo sa COVID-19 mula sa 4 hanggang 33 sa nakalipas na ilang araw.

Dahil naman dito, anak ng tokwa, umiirai na ang panic buying at overpricing ng mga pagkain at pangangailangang pangkalusugan.

NAGKAKAUBUSAN, NAGMAMAHAL PA

Sinubukan ng mga taga-Remate ang pumunta at bumili ng alcohol at hand sanitizer sa ilang malalaking tindahan, kasama na ang mga mall.

Bulaga, wala nang mabili at kung may mabili man, ang 250ml na alcohol na dating nasa P35-P40 ay nasa P100 na ang isa.

Ang mga hand sanitizer, nagkakaubusan na rin.

May mga pumapakyaw, sabi ng mga saleslady o tindera.

Isang araw, magugulat na lang tayo na matutulad ang mga billihing ito sa face mask na N95 at surgical mask na wala na talagang suplay.

Sa Bambang, Manila na sentro ng bilihan ng face mask, bawat tindahan, nakapaskil ang "Face Mask not available."

Paano ang sinasabi at kampanya ng pamahalaan na dapat maglagay ang mga establisimyento, transport terminal, restoran, condominium, opisina ng gobyerno at iba pa na maglagay sila ng alcohol o hand sanitizer?

KAMAY NG GOBYERNO

Mahalagang katanurigan ngayon sa pamahalaan ang kapangyarihan nitong kumontrol sa presyo at itulak ang mga producer na gumawa ng alcohol, hand sanitizer at face mask.

Ang mga ito ay napakahalagang panlaban sa paglaganap ng sakit.

Sa face mask, ang Pilipinas ang pangunahing may sangkap sa paggawa nito gaya ng abaka.

Problema na lang ang gamot na ikinakabit dito kung imported o hindi.

Paano ang alcohol at hand sanitizer?

Pupwede bang magdebelop ng alcohol mula sa nilyog na pinagkukunan ng lamihanog?

At ang hand sanitizer, paano?

Kung paano pinilit ng mga Tsino ang dumiskubre ng gamot laban sa COVID-19 at gumawa ng marami na ginagamit na nila ngayon nang malawakan, hindi ba magagawa ng pamahalaan



PANIC SA COVID-19 AT PANIC BUYING

na pilitin ang mga manufacturer ng face mask, alcohol at hand sanitizer na gumawa ng marami para maging mura ang mga ito at hindi pupwedeng samantalahin ng mga negosyanteng distributor at retailer?

GAMOT PINAKAIMPORTANTE

Hindi na gaanong sumisiklab ang COVID-19 sa bansang China.

Ang mga dahilan ay dahil sa matinding lockdown na pinairal.

Pero malaking papel ang pagkakaadiskubre nila ng mga gamot laban sa sakit.

Meron na bang hakbang ang pamahalaan na kumontak sa China at iba pang mga bansa na may nadebelop nang mga gamot laban sa sakit?

Kung meron naman tayo, gaya ng mga gamot laban sa lagnat at ubo na inihahalo sa gamot laban sa Human Immuno-Virus, paano gamitin ang mga ito?

Alalahaning matagumpay ang Thailand sa paggamit ng mga nasabing gamot kaya ang Thailand ay nakakayanang labanan ang COVID-19.

Kahit na nagmumula sa Tsina ang pangunahin nilang carrier lalo't mga Chinese ang number one nilang mga turista.

IMPORMASYON NG DOH MAGANDA

Ang konswelo natin ngayon, nagbibigay ng magandang impormasyon ang Department of Health.

Pinakamahalaga ang pagtukoy nila ng mga ospital at lungsod o bayan na may biktima ng sakit.

Umaamin din ang mga Local Government Unit na may kaso.

At ang maganda sa mga LGU, nagkakaroon sila ng mga hakbang na emergency para bantayan ang sakit at tulurigan ang mga mamamayan na magsagawa ng mga pag-iingat para hindi mahawa o nakapitan ang sakit.

Siyempre pa, hindi natin kailimutan ang sinasabi ng DOH na kung may tama ang isang miyembro ng pamilya natin na hindi naman severe o kritikal, dapat hiwalay siya sa lahat ng miyembro ng pamilya, may sariling mga gamit sa pagkain, damit, tulugan, palikuran at iba pa.

Igawan na lang ng remedyo ang hindi pupwedeng ihiwalay gaya ng kaagayan ng mga mahihirap na walang

masabing sari-ling silid at palikuran.

MAGANDA PA

Ipinaliliwanag din ng DOH na may tatlong uri ng pasyente.

Karamihan ay mild o mahina lang ang tama.

Yung bang kung mga senglot ang nag-uusap, nakalnom lang pero hindi lasing.

Meron namang mga severe at kritikal.

Para sa mga mild, sa mga ospital na ordinaryo pupwede silang dalhin.

Pero kung severe at kritikal, nariryan ang Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Lung Center of the Philippines at San Lazaro Hospital.

Meron ding mga pribadong ospital na nagsasabing kaya nilang manggamot ng mga severe at kritikal.

MAGKANO?

Pinag-uusapan natin ngayon ang mga gastos sa ospital.

Gusto nating malaman ang patakaran ng pamahalaan sa mga pasyenteng biktima ng COVID-19.

Libre ba lahat sa mga pampublikong ospital mula sa maliit na gamit hanggang sa malalaki?

Kasi, sa totoo lang, kahit sinasabing libre, karanasan nang pinabibili arig mga kamag-anak ng kung ano-ano mula sa bulak hanggang sa mga catheter at gamot sa mga pamsasya na inginunguso ng mga doktor.

Tatangilhan ka ng mga pamsasya kung nakita nila ang pirma ng doktor na gustong sa isang pamsasya ka lang pupunta at mas mahal arig gamot.

May mga pamsasya sa loob ng ospital pero hanggang dalawang araw ka lang libre at kailangan mo narin bumili sa kooperatiba o pamsasya ng doktor pagkatapos.

Sa mga pribadong ospital, malinaw na pera-pera ang usapan pero maging sa mga public hospital ay ganito rin.

Paano nga ang gastos sa COVID-19, lalo na sa mga mahihirap?

oOo

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