

Disaster resilience prompts foreshore development

This will address the issues confronting our coastal and foreshore areas in order to maximize not only their use but also the economic benefits that we derive from these resources

BY ELMER RECUERDO

TACLOBAN CITY — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has drafted the Leyte Provincial Foreshore Development and Management Plan that aims to a better development and management of foreshore areas of the province.

The plan has already been submitted to the provincial board for adoption through an approved resolution and is expected to be approved anytime soon.

Engr. Winston Solite, Technical Services Division Chief of the DENR-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-PENRO) Leyte, said the formulation of the foreshore plan will help curb the effects of natural disasters along the coastal and foreshore areas and save them from further degradation due to the increase of informal settlers and unregulated developmental activities.

"This will address the issues confronting our coastal and foreshore areas in order to maximize not only their use but also the economic benefits that we derive from these resources," Solite said.

Foreshore areas refer to that part of the shore which is alternately covered and uncovered by the ebb and flow of tide. Leyte has a foreshore area of 1,053.82 hectares with approximately 5,370 occupants. Out of these, 295 of them are from this city.

The Leyte foreshore development and management plan covers 27 municipalities and 3 cities, including Tacloban City.

Foreshore areas occupied by illegal and informal settlers had the highest number of casualties during typhoon "Yolanda."

Solite said the foreshore plan will also intensify the role of the local government units (LGU) in terms of managing their respective foreshore areas.

"Once the province adopts this development plan, a foreshore lease applicant will have to first seek clearance from the Municipal Planning and Development Officer of the concerned LGU to ensure that the purpose of the lease is in accordance with the comprehensive land use plan. Otherwise, no clearance will be granted at the LGU level,"

NWRB assures nation of enough water supply

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) on Monday assured of enough water supply until the next rainy season

while adhering to the high standards of cleanliness and public hygiene amid the coronavirus threat.

This was announced by the NWRB even as the water level at Angat Dam plunged below the 200-meter level last Sunday due to deficiency of rainfall over the watershed area in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

The NWRB last March 12 increased the raw water allocation of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Sys-

tem (MWSS) from 42 cubic meters per second (cms) to 46 cms, equivalent to around 4,000 million liters per day until March 31.

Metro Manila's water allotment sourced from Angat Dam has been at 42 cms since January 1. The normal allocation is 46 cms.

Meanwhile, NWRB has decided to maintain the allocation to the National Irrigation Administration for irrigation at 20 cms.

NWRB's decision to provide additional water to MWSS aims to ensure a steady supply of water for Metro Manila considering the declaration of the state of public health emergency and the importance of water in undertaking the preventive measures against the coronavirus.

1/10

ITINAAS NG NWRB ANG ALOKASYON NG TUBIG MULA SA 42CMS NAGING 46CMS NA NGAYON

NOONG ika-12 ng Marso 2020, sinimulan ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ang pagbigay ng karagdagang suplay ng tubig sa Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) para sa dalawang pribadong konsesyonaryo (Maynilad Water Services, Inc. at Manila Water Company, Inc.) dahil sila ang nagseserbisyo sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay Dr. Sevillo D. David Jr., Executive Director ng NWRB, ito ay upang matiyak na may sapat na suplay ng tubig para sa Metro Manila na isinasaalang-alang ang pagpapahayag ng "state of public health emergency" at ang kahalagahan ng paggamit ng tubig lao na sa panahon

ngayon, ang pagsasagawa ng mga hakbang sa pag-iwas o labanan ang pagkakaroon ng sakit na Coronavirus 2019 o COVID 19.

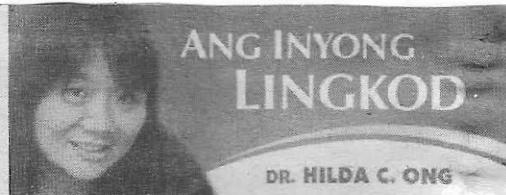
The NWRB is assuring that water will be sustainably available throughout the whole year. The public is similarly asked to avoid wastage and to use water responsibly.

Siniguro ng NWRB na magiging tuluy-tuloy ang supply ng tubig upang may magamit sa buong taon, ngunit, kinakailangang pa rin ang pagtitipid sa paggamit ng tubig. Ang hiling ng pamunuan ng NWRB sa publiko, iwasan ang pag-aaksaya at paggamit ng tubig nang may responsible.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang antas ng tubig sa Angat reservoir ay nasa 200.58 meters lamang (March 12, 2020 ng 8:00 ng umaga), kulang ng 11.42 meters base sa 212 normal high water level (NHWL). Photo credit to Manila Water Facebook page.

-ooOoo-
SSS AT ETIQA, PATULOY NA MAGTUTULUNGAN

Magpapatuloy ang sinirulang pagtutulungan sa pagitan ng Social Security System (SSS) at ng Etiqa Life and General Assurance Philippines, Inc. (Etiqa) matapos muling lumagda ang dalawang institusyon sa isang Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) nitong nagdaang March 5, 2020.



ANG INYONG LINGKOD

DR. HILDA C. ONG

Ang Etiqa na siyag dating AsianLife & General Assurance Corporation ay ang credit insurance partner ng SSS para sa mga retiree-pensioners na umuutang ng hanggang Php 200,000 sa pamamagitan ng Pension Loan Program (PLP) na sinimulan noong September 2018.

Ang bawat pagkakautang sa PLP ng SSS ay saklaw ng isang Group Credit Life Insurance. Sakaling mamatay ang miyembro umutang, ang outstanding balance niya ay awtomatikong bayad na.

Lumagda sa MOA sina SSS business and development loans department manager III Ma. Gracia G. Abas, lending and asset manage-

ment group senior vice president Pedro Baoy, investment sector executive vice president Rizaldy Capulong habang sa pang ng Etiqa ay ang president and chief executive officer nito na sina si Rico Bustista, chief financial officer and treasurer James Patrick Bonas at group marketing department manager Jeremy Ramirez.

Malaki ang naitulong PLP sa mga retiree-pensioners na nangangailangan ng malaking halaga para sa isang emergency katulad ng pagbabawayad ng tuition fee ng apo o kaya ay pagsisimula ng isang malit na egosyo.

Mabuti na lang talaga at may SSS!

ECC@45: Empowering PWRDs

with Inclusive and Compassionate (EPIC) Public Service

**Forty-five years.
Different leaderships.
Various programs. But
with only one mission:
To serve and protect
our Persons with Work-
Related Disabilities
(PWRDs) and their
families.**

The Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) over the years has remained truthful to its commitment to serve with integrity, transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness to all Filipino workers.

And as ECC celebrates its 45th year in the public service, it promises to bring a more defined and expanded efforts in reaching more Filipino workers in the years to come as it continues to make reforms and developments for a better implementation of the EC Program.

With the unceasing hardwork and support of the members of the Commission, several policies were issued to enhance, equalize and expand the EC Program including coverage of self-employed and OFW land-based members of the SSS. Actual coverage is being pursued presently.

Being a quasi-judicial body, ECC is also mandated to promptly resolve cases brought before it after denial by the Systems. To date, ECC has a total of 14, 570 cases disposed since 1986 to March 2020. Process cycle time

for deciding on appealed case is now at 20 working days.

Aside from formulating policies and programs, the Commission ensures that PWRDs are provided with the necessary rehabilitation services under the Quick Response Program and the *Katulong at Gabay sa Manggagawang may Kapansanan* or KaGabay such as Cash Assistance, Psychosocial support, PT/OT Services, Skills Training, Entrepreneurship Training and Medical Appliances/ Assistive Devices

The ECC also continues to improve its communication plan and implement new marketing campaigns such as the LRT Train Wrap, Bus Rear Advertisement and placement of ECC Roll up banners in all SSS, GSIS, DOLE field offices nationwide, shopping malls, terminals and various offices. The ECC implemented a nationwide cinema ads campaign and an online lecture series in 2019 and started its SMS textblast program, TV ads, radio ads, radio program and jeepney topper ads in the first quarter of 2020. It has also strengthened its digital online presence from having 1,759 likes in 2012 to almost 400,000 likes and followers in its Facebook page now.

Today, ECC has more than two million public sector and 26 million private sector members with a total asset of 66.97 billion pesos as of September 2019 and 6.6 million claims granted. Over the years, ECC has grown its financial capacity thus broadening its ability to provide more benefits to its beneficiaries.

As of September 30, 2019, total assets of the State Insurance Fund amounts to 66.97 billion pesos; 60 percent or 40.45 billion pesos with the SSS while 40 percent or 26.52 billion pesos is with the GSIS (figures are rounded off).

With all its existing programs and recent developments including its ISO 9001:2015 certification, ECC reaped local and international recognitions from different institutions for its exemplary public service such as from the Department of Labor and Employment, Government Quality Management Committee, Association of Government Accountants of the Philippines Inc., Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Linya ng Pagbabago-Presidential Complaint Center, and the ASEAN Social Security Association.

Not only is ECC living up to its mission in providing appropriate compensation to Filipino workers who meet work-related contingencies, but in exceptionally expanding meaningful benefits and services.

Indeed, ECC concretizes the state's concern for the Filipino working men and women. But above all, mahalagang mapanatili ang isang ligtas na lugar na pinagtatrabahuan. Pero, kung sakaling magkasakit o maaksidente nang dahil sa trabaho, may benepisyo sa ilalim ng Employees' Compensation Program.

Dito sa ECC, basta #WORK-RELATED, #PROTEKTADO KA!

Ang pag-aalaga sa manggagawa ay pag-aalaga sa bayan!

COVID-19 CASE COUNT: PHILIPPINES

as of March 15

Death Toll	Number of cases
Feb. 1, 2020	1
March 11	3
March 12	2
March 13	2
March 14	1
March 15	3
TOTAL	12

Date of lab confirmation	Number of cases
Jan. 30, 2020	3
March 5	2
March 6	1
March 8	4
March 9	14
March 10	9
March 11	19
March 12	2
March 13	35
March 14	12
March 15	26
For Validation	13
Grand Total	140

By Residence	Number of cases
Antipolo City	1
Bataan	1
Batangas	2
Bulacan	3
City of Caloocan	1
Camarines Sur	1
Cavite	3
Davao de Oro	1
"Filipino"	1
"For validation"	19
Laguna	1
Lanao del Sur	1
Las Piñas City	2
Lucena City	1
Makati City	15
Mandaluyong City	4
City of Manila	8
Marikina City	6
Muntinlupa City	1
Negros Oriental	2
"None"	4
Paranaque City	5
Pasay City	1
Pasig City	8
Porac, Pampanga	1
Quezon City	22
Rizal	5
San Fernando, Pampanga	1
San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	1
San Juan City	15
Taguig City	2
Tarlac	1

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUSINESSWORLD RESEARCH
BUSINESSWORLD GRAPHICS: BONG R. FORTIN

neklarang positibo sa Corona Virus Disease-19.

Sampol dito ang tatlong barangay sa loob ng Tambunting area, Sta. Cruz, Manila na guwadiyo na ng mga pulis at militar, katulong sina kapitan, kagawad at mga tanod.

Ni-lockdown sila dahil may tatllo nang nagpositibo sa COVID-19 at ang magandang balita, wala pang namamatay bagama't nagkabalitaan kahapon na meron na.

MASAMANG BALITA

Sa Tambunting area, hindi lang advice kundi may halo nang utos na huwag lumabas ang sinnoman para maghanap-buhay o magtrabajo.

Kahit nakalalabas-labas at nakababalik-balik ang mga residente, paisa-isa lang at mahigpit na ipinatutupad ang mga kontrol para rito.

Nangangahulugang gumagapang na ang gutom at kagipitan sa tatlong barangay na ito.

At napakasamang balita ito dahil posibleng hindi lang kakapusang pagkain ang magaganap kundi maging ang masustansyang pagkain.

Kapag may gutom at kakapusang sustansya, manghihina ang mga tao sa pagka-malnourished at diyan na sila madaling kapitan ng sakit, hindi lang ng COVID-19 kundi ng iba pang mga sakit.

At kapag nangyari ito, unti-until, palapit nang palapit si kamatayan sa mga residente.

ANG GOOD NEWS

Ayon sa mga residente, naka-monitor umano, 24 oras, si Mayor Isko Moreno sa lugar at nagkabalitaan nang narnimigay na ang pamahalaang Lungsod ng Maynila ng tig-isang kabang bigas sa bawat pamilya.

Kung babadyetin ang isang kaban, kahit paano, makararoos ang isang pamilya sa loob tatlong linggo.

Ulam, masustansyang ulam na lang ang kailangan ng mga mamayan para maging malusog sila at magkaroon ng lakas ng kawayan na hindi basta susuko sa pag-atake ng virus at bakteria.

Maraming salamat.

NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

LOCKDOWN: TULONG NG PAMAHALAAN BILISAN

kay Mayor Kois sa kanyaang mga aksyon sa pangangalaga sa mga nila-lockdown.

Sana malagpasan ng mga taga-Tambunting ang krisis na sumapit sa kanila. At sana hindi na lala-la pa ang kanilang sitwasyon.

KAPOS NA LGU

Ang concern natin, mga Bro, ay ang mahihirap na local government unit o barangay, bayan, lungsod at lalawigan at hindi katulad ng Maynila na isang multi-bilyonaryong lungsod.

Marami sa mga ito ang higit na nabubuhay sa Internal Revenue Allotment kaysa kita nila sa buwis sa lupa, negosyo at estabilisymento.

Ibig sabihin nito na kung may manghingi ng tulong kina kapitan, mayor at gobernador, hindi sapat ang sahod nila kahit sa isang sigwada ng hingian lamang.

Bibihira rin lang ang mayayaman sa paligid na maaaring hindi rin basta makapagbigay ng tuloy-tuloy na tulong kundi maliitan lamang.

Kaya naman, tatabo tiyak ang mga pinuno o opisyal natin sa kanilang mga calamity fund na karaniwang kapos din.

Ang mga lugar na ito, kapag inatake ng COVID-19 at nagka-lockdown, sila ang hirap na lumaban.

Magaganap ang mga gutom at iba pang kagipitan.

Dito na magtatanong ang mga mamamayan ng "Nasaan ang tulong ng pamahalaan?"

DAGDAG-BADYET SA DOH

Mabilis na dumarami ang mga nagpopositibo, person under investigation at person under monitoring.

Darating ang araw na dagsa na ang magpapacheck up sa mga ospital laban sa COVID-19.

Palagay ng ULTIMATUM, ubos na ang nasa 4,500 unit na test kit ng Department of Health.

Umaasa ngayon ang DOH na makapagparami na ang University of the Philippines-National Institute of Health no naiimbenta-

to nitong rapid testing kit.

Meron na ba ito sa mga araw na ito?

Ang mga imported, nagkakahalaga ng P20,000-P30,000 bawat unit pero ang galing sa UP-NIH, nasa P1,500 lang bawat unit.

Dapat buhusan ng pamahalaang nasyunal ang UP-NIH ng sapat na pondo para sa maramihang produksyon ng rapid testing kit.

Dapat gumamit na rin ang mga ospital ng pamahalaan ng CT Scan na ginagamit ng China sa pag-diagnose sa COVID-19 at sinasabing higit na mas sakto ang resulta rito kaysa sa mga testing kit na nakabase sa kemikal.

SAGING AT HIV MEDICINE

Heto ngayon ang naka-iirita, mga Bro.

Lumabas lang sa internet na mabisa ang saging laban sa COVID-19, biglang nagmahal ito mula sa P50 kada kilo sa P100 kada kilo.

Agad na nagsamantala ang mga anak ng tipaklong na negosyante at vendor ng saging.

Sila sana ang matamaan ng nakahahawa at nakamamatay na sakit na ito.

Ang sabi sa Thailand at Japan, mabisa ang ilang uri ng gamot laban sa human immuno virus bilang gamot sa COVID-19.

Dapat na gamitin agad ang mga ito na inihahalo sa mga gamot laban sa lagnat at ubo o trangkaso.

Lahat ay dapat na gawin para sa kaligtasan ng lahat sa sakit na umaatake sa atin.

Salamat na rin sa lahat ng mga nasa medical profession, mga doktor, nars, midwife, radiologist, pharmacist at iba pa, pribado man o publico, na aktibong kumikilos at laging handang magsakripiso alang-alang sa Filipino.

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

Sa kabilang masalimuot na Metro Manila 'community quarantine'

LUZON-WIDE 'LOCKDOWN' IDINEKLARA NI DUTERTE

ISINAILALIM ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa 'lockdown' ang buong Luzon sa layuning makontrol ang pagkalat ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19) sa buong kapuluan.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo, ang kahulugan ng Luzon-wide lockdown o enhanced community quarantine, lahat ng tao ay kailangang nasa loob ng kanilang bahay.

Ang deklarasyon ng Pangulo ay ginawa, sa panahon na mainit na pinag-uusapan ang mahabang oras na pagkakabinbin ng mga pasahero at motorista, sa checkpoints na inilagay sa bounadaries ng Metro Manila dahil sa iilang health workers na nag-sasagawa ng thermal scanning at law enforcers na nigrerekorda sa dokumento ng mama-mayan.

"It means we will have to stay at home.

Work will be suspended. There is suspension of work... The general rule is there is suspension of work," ani Panelo.

Batay sa memorandum na inilabas ng Palasyo kaugnay sa NCR lockdown, ang enhanced community lockdown ay suspendido ang mass transportation o walang puwedeng magbiyahe maliban sa "frontline health workers, authorized government officials, medical or humanitarian reasons as well as transport of basic services and necessities."

Ayon kay Panelo, ihahatid ang pagkain at batayang panganganagan sa mga bahay na pangangasiwaan ng lokal na pamahalaan.

"Provision for food and essential services shall be regulated - the respective LGUs will have to create a system where food and essential needs will be delivered to the homes of the communities," ani Panelo.

Madaragdagan din ang ipakalat na powersa ng militar at pulisia upang matiyak na susunod ang mga mamamayan.

Matatandaan, itinaas ng Pangulo sa pinaka-mataas na public health alert sa Code Red Sublevel-2 noong Nakalipas na Huwebes, 12 Marso.

Sinususpendi ang mga klase sa lahat ng antas sa Metro Manila hanggang 14 Abril 2020 maging ang

pasok sa gobyerno sa sangay ng ehektibo at skeletal force lamang ang magmamatina ng operasyon ng iba't ibang tanggapang pamahalaan.

Sinabi ng Pangulo na malaking dagok sa ekonomiya ng bansa ang patuloy na pagkalat ng COVID-19 kaya ang panawagan niya sa malalaking negosyante, ibigay ang 13th month pay ng kanilang mga empleyado o ang kalahati ng kanilang suweldo kahit hindi sila nakapagtatrabaho sanhi ng Luzon-wide lockdown.

Paliwanag niya, bawal ang pagsusumikap na kontrolin ang paglaganap ng COVID-19 kung naglalabas pasok sa Metro Manila araw-araw ang mga obrero na nakatira sa mga karatig lalawigan kaya't nagpasya siyang ipatigil pamanalata ang trabaho sa public at private sector hanggang 12 Abril 2020.

Inatasan niya si Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rodolfo Bautista na magikot sa mga pamayanan upang alamin sa mga barangay chairman kung sino sa kanilang constituents ang nagugutom at rarasyonan sila ng pagkain ng pamahalaan.

Git ng Pangulo, responsibilidad ng mga punong barangay na atupagin ang panganganagan ng kanilang

pamayanan at kung hindi nila gagawin ito ay kakasuhan sila ng Palasyo.

"Ito namang food, si Rolly will have to go around iyong mga ano siguro, Rol, you utilize all vehicles of government available, just go around and maybe asking if there is somebody starving or in need of food. What I would like to assure you, ang ano dito is: saan kami kukuha ng pagkain pag hindi kami lumalabas?"

"Now it behoves upon the barangay captain. Itong mga barangay captain makinig kayo, this is a mandatory duty, it does not have to have a law because the proclamation itself suggests that there is really a need for you to work with government. And if you violate this, then you can be liable for dereliction of duty or other [regulatory?] measures which you are supposed to do and do not do it and then you violate a law," tagubilin ng Pangulo.

The barangay captains should call a number and at least food, rice and some ano'yung ulam puwede ninyong ibigay sana para sa ating mga kababayan," dagdag ng Pangulo.

Inutusan niya ang Department of Budget and Management (DBM) at Department of Health (DOH) na bigyan ng dagdag na kompensasyon ang health workers.

DA confirms bird flu outbreak in Nueva Ecija

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said confirmed an outbreak of H5N6 Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) at a quail farm in Nueva Ecija.

In a news conference Monday, Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar said the outbreak was confirmed on March 13 after the Nueva Ecija Veterinary Office received reports of increased quail mortality at a farm in Barangay Ulanin-Pitak in Jaen on March 9.

The authorities culled 12,000 birds while 3,000 died from the disease. The farm is now being disinfected.

"We will ensure that the incidence will be contained effectively and swiftly to prevent the occurrence of the unfortunate outbreak of a few years ago," Mr. Dar said.

The DA implements a "test and cull" strategy in which a sample of birds is tested for the virus, followed by a cull if the test is positive.

Compensation for farmers is set at P10 for small poultry and P80 pesos for bigger birds such as ducks and broiler chickens. The payments will be funded from the DA's quick response fund.

The DA has placed under surveillance areas which are one kilometer (km) and seven km radius from the affected farm to contain the outbreak.

All poultry inside the one kilometer radius area are subject to testing, with security checkpoints established to prevent animal movement beyond the one-kilometer radius.

"Animal quarantine checkpoints have also been established to restrict the movement of all domestic birds to and from the one kilometer radius quarantine area," Mr. Dar said.

Meanwhile, poultry products within the seven kilometer surveillance radius are subject to random testing.

Transport of poultry products such as day-old chicks, hatching eggs, and chicken meat within the seven kilometer zone will still be allowed as long as the farms that provided the poultry test negative for bird flu.

Undersecretary Ariel T. Cayanan said that the DA has tested nearby farms and is controlling the spread. He added that proper disposal of the culled birds are equally important.

"The main concern here is to control and contain the virus," Mr. Cayanan added.

Layer chickens are thought to be more susceptible to the disease than broiler chickens.

The same virus subtype was also the cause of the 2017 bird flu outbreak in Pampanga and Nueva Ecija.

DA Technical Spokesperson for Avian Influenza Arlene V. Vytaco said there is a possibility of human transmission, which she described as "very slim," adding that the mortality rate is zero for the persons who tested positive for the virus.

Dr. Vytaco added the outbreak was controlled due to early reporting by the farm owner.

"Maaga natin na-detect so maaga ang control measures natin. Controlling measures are in place kaya wala dapat ikatakot ang public. (We detected the disease early, so the control measures were implemented as soon as possible). Controlling measures are in place which means that the public has nothing to be scared of," she said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Bird flu naitala sa Nueva Ecija, ilang residente pinag-quarantine

INIULAT ng Department of Agriculture (DA) na ti-namaan ng isang strain ng bird flu ang mga pugo sa isang farm sa Barangay Ulanin-Pitak, Jaen, Nueva Ecija dahilan para isailalim sa culling operation ang mga ito.

Ayon kay DA Secretary William Dar, ang H5N6 strain ng avian influenza ang tumama sa 1,500 pugo doon.

Mababa ang tsansang mailipat sa tao ang virus, pero pinag-quarantine pa rin ang mga indibidwal na na-expose sa mga pugo habang hinilintay ang resulta ng kanilang pagsusuri, ani Dr. Arlene Vitiaco, spokesperson for avian

flu ng DA.
"Iyong percentage na maka-infect siya sa tao is very, very slim," ani Vitiaco.

Ipinagbawal na rin ang pagbebenta ng mga karne at itlog ng pugo na sakop ng 1-kilometrong palibot ng apektadong farm.

Samantala, sinabi ng pamahalaan na handa itong tumugon sa banta ng bird flu.

"Kahit anong klaseng problema ready tayo ryan. Pinaghandaan na natin iyan, wala tayong choice kundi salubungin natin at gawan natin ng paraan," ani Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo.

VER STA. ANA