

DATE : 17 SEP 2019

DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service

Landbank, DENR, Manila launch 'STP for Manila Bay'

THE Land Bank of the Philippines has signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the city of Manila for the "STP for Manila Bay," a new credit program that will help protect and conserve Manila Bay.

The STP (Solutions in Terminating Pollution) for Manila Bay is a new credit facility designed to provide funding for the construction of waste water systems and facilities that is now expanded to accommodate not just water districts but also business entities, local government units (LGUs), and government owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs.)

"This credit program, the initiative of LandbANDBANK, will go a long way in helping us ensure that establishments are provided with the means to construct their own sewage treatment plants, because they're given very good

terms," said DENR Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna.

In the same event, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) signed up as new members of the Manila Bay SUNSET Partnership Program, Inc. (MBSPPPI), an environmental and volunteerism movement with 28-member organizations from the public and private sector, including the academe.

DILG's oversight of the LGUs will ensure active participation of the 178 LGUs surrounding Manila Bay, while LLDA's expertise in management of water bodies will further capacitate MBSPPPI.

The addition of the two new partners is expected to strengthen the partnership in protecting the bay, where thousands of small fishers from surrounding communities rely on for their livelihood and daily sustenance.



(Left photo) Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko" Moreno (third from left) and Cuna (rightmost) join in welcoming new MBSPPPI partners: DILG represented by Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III (second from right) and LLDA represented by general manager Jaime Medina (third from right). With them are Landbank's Julio Climaco Jr. and Catherine Rowena Villanueva. (right photo) Moreno, Cuna and Climaco sign the MOA for Landbank's "STP for Manila Bay" Credit Program.



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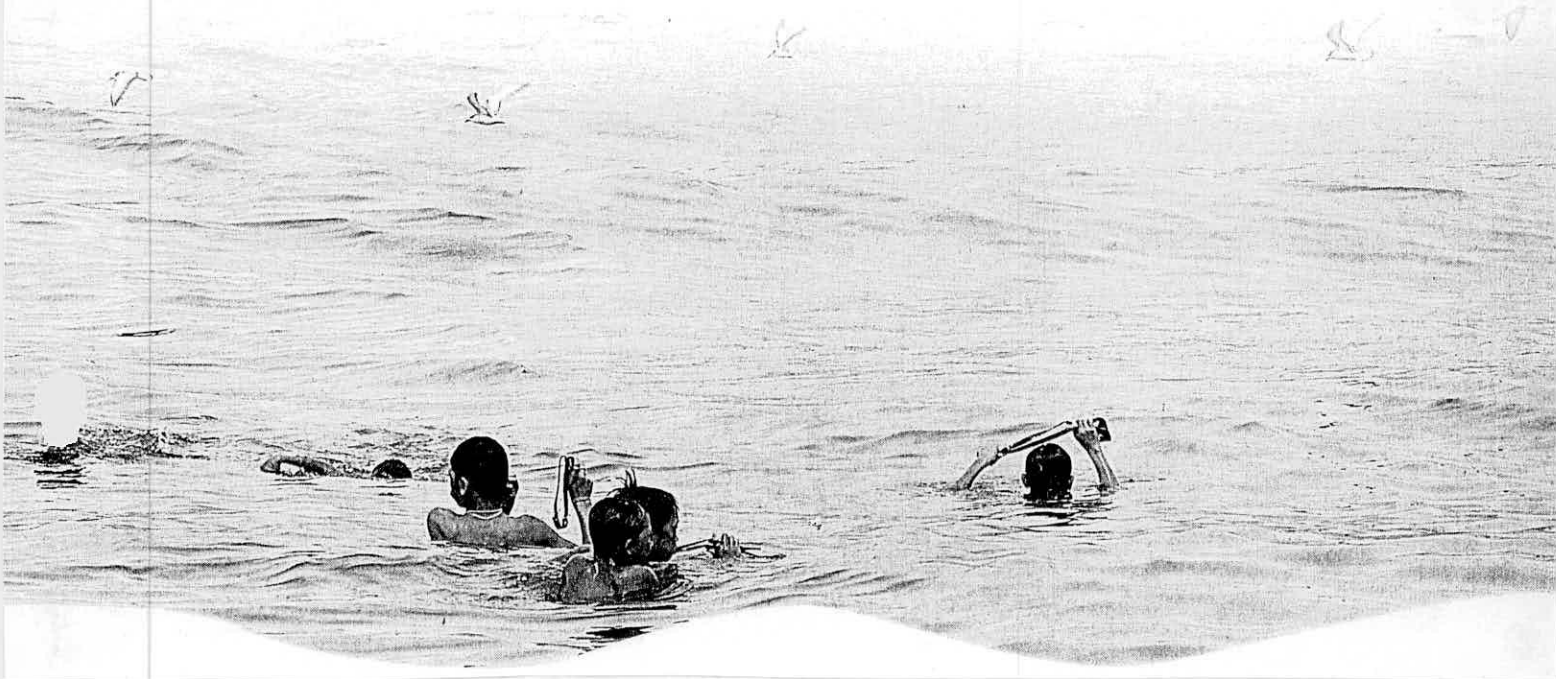
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Playing hooky

Playing hooky Despite the inclement weather, these children find the time to swim in Manila Bay and hunt for seagulls using slingshots. BOB DUNGO JR.





Manila Water investing ₱115 billion more

By **JAMES A. LOYOLA**

Manila Water Company, a unit of conglomerate Ayala Corporation, will spend ₱115 billion more to complete its sewerage program by 2037.

"Since 1997 when we took over the East Zone, we have spent ₱38.5 billion on our wastewater programs from collections of only ₱36.9 billion. So, we have excess investments of ₱1.6 billion and we expect this trend to continue," said Manila Water Chief Operating Officer Abelardo P. Basilio.

To complete its sewerage program until 2037, the company needs to lay about 500 kilometers more of pipes in public and private roads.

This will capture wastewater from households and establishments in the East Zone to convey to sewage treatment plants to ensure that wastewater released to Manila Bay complies pollution control standards.

Part of the expenditure will fund the construction of system projects covering 11 sub-catchment areas. These projects will be implemented in two or three phases.

Seven projects are set to commence until 2022 translating to an investment of ₱38.4 billion, while the rest will begin construction from 2023 onwards.

The sewage treatment plants (STPs) to be built for these system projects are designed to cumulatively collect and treat up to almost 950 million liters per day (MLD) of wastewater from a population of 7.5 million in the East Zone by 2037.

The investment also covers the rehabilitation of existing sewer lines and the upgrade of currently operating STPs to comply with the recently released DAO 2016-8 standards by the DENR for biological nutrient removal in the wastewater treatment process.

For ongoing wastewater infrastructure projects, nearing its completion is the Ilugin Sewage Treatment Plant to serve the sub-catchment area of North and South Pasig, covering communities in and around Pasig City.

More system projects are ready to commence soon. These include the Mandaluyong West and San Mateo-Rodriguez sewerage system projects, which will eventually serve more than 1.3 million population by 2037.

"For most cases, Manila Water also acquires the land where the STPs are put up. Among the Metro Manila governments, Marikina is way ahead with an 80 percent coverage all spent for by Manila Water, and Mayor Marcy Teodoro wants 100-percent sewerage in the next two years. We will do that and that will make Marikina our model," Basilio said.

Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto also wants to fast-track the city's sewerage projects and "we are working closely with him because we have the same objectives of making sure that only treated water is released to Manila Bay," Basilio added.

To date, Manila Water operates 38 STPs and 2 septage treatment plants with a total capacity of 310 MLD.



Water concessionaires fasttrack projects

BY JED MACAPAGAL

METRO Manila water concessionaires announced plans to fast track their respective projects to further improve services in their franchise areas.

East zone concessionaire Manila Water Co. Inc. said it will spend P115 billion more to complete its sewerage program by 2037.

“Since 1997 when we took over the East Zone, we have spent P38.5 billion on our wastewater programs from collections of only P36.9 billion. So, we have excess investments of P1.6 billion and we expect this trend to continue,” Abelardo Basilio, Manila Water chief operating officer, said in a statement.

To push the program, Basilio said Manila Water will need to lay about 500 kilometers more of pipes in public and private roads to capture wastewater from households and establishments in the east zone to convey to sewage treatment plants (STP) and ensure that wastewater released to Manila Bay complies with pollution control standards.

He said the projects will be implemented in two or three phases; seven are set to commence until 2022 translating to an investment of P38.4 billion, while the rest will begin construction from 2023 onwards.

The STPs to be built for these system projects are designed to cumulatively collect and treat up to almost 950 million liters per day (MLD) of wastewater from a population of 7.5 million in the east zone by 2037.



Improved service. Manila Water and Maynilad are spending billions for various projects, from repairing leaks to building treatment plants.

Among ongoing wastewater infrastructure projects nearing completion is the Ilugin STP which will serve as the sub-catchment area of north and south Pasig, covering communities in and around Pasig City by 2020.

“For most cases, Manila Water also acquires the land where the STPs are put up. Among the Metro Manila governments, Marikina is way ahead with an 80 percent coverage all spent for by Manila Water and mayor Marcy Teodoro wants 100 percent sewerage in the next two years. We will do that and that will make Marikina

our model,” Basilio said.

He added that Pasig mayor Vico Sotto also wants to fast track the city’s sewerage projects.

To date, Manila Water operates 38 STPs and 2 septage treatment plants with a total capacity of 310 MLD.

Manila Water serves customers in Makati, Pasig, Pateros, Marikina, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Taguig, some parts of Quezon City and Manila; and several towns in Rizal province including Taytay, Teresa, Angono, Antipolo, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, San Mateo and Rodriguez.

On the other hand, west zone

concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. is building a new pumping station and reservoir in Valenzuela City which will boost water pressure for over 50,000 customers.

The new facility, to be constructed early next year and targeted for completion by 2021, will be equipped with high-efficiency pumps that can increase water pressure from the current 7 pounds per square inch (psi) to 16 psi in portions of Valenzuela and Quezon City.

At 16 psi, water can reach the third floor of a house or establishment.

The new reservoir will also have a storage capacity of 40 million liters, which can serve as additional reserve water for the area in case of supply shortfall or an increase in demand.

“This project, along with our pipe replacement and rehabilitation initiatives to reduce water losses, is a critical component of our long-term plan to provide reliable services. It will help us to sustain service levels in the north, given increasing demand for water supply,” Ramoncito Fernandez, Maynilad president and chief executive officer, said in a statement.

Maynilad is the largest private water concessionaire in the Philippines in terms of customer base, serving the cities of Manila, Quezon City, Makati, Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon; the cities of Cavite, Bacoor and Imus and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario that are all in Cavite.



Manila Water spending P115B for sewerage

Manila Water said it will also rehabilitate existing sewer lines and upgrade currently operating STP to comply with an administrative order

East zone concessionaire Manila Water Co. Inc. has budgeted P115 billion more over the next 18 years to complete its sewerage program.

On Monday, Manila Water said part of the additional expenditures will be used to lay about 500 kilometers (kms) more pipes in public and private roads. This will capture wastewater from households and establishments in the East Zone to convey to sewage treatment plants to ensure that wastewater released to Manila Bay complies pollution control standards.

Meanwhile, a portion of the budget will fund the construction of system projects covering 11 sub-catchment areas, to be implemented in two or three phases.

Seven projects are set to begin in 2022 requiring an investment of P38.4-billion, while the rest will begin construction from 2023 onwards.

The sewage treatment plants (STP) to be built for these system projects are designed to cumulatively collect and treat up to 950 million liters per day (MLD) of wastewater from 7.5 million population in the East Zone by 2037.

Manila Water said it will also rehabilitate existing sewer lines and upgrade currently operating STP to comply with an administrative order by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for biological nutrient removal in the wastewater treatment process.

At present, Manila Water is underway with the construction of the Ilugin STP to serve the sub-catchment area of North and South Pasig. The 100-MLD capacity STP and its sewerage system will serve close to 700,000 in terms of population when completed. The STP is slated for operations by 2020.

Meanwhile, more STP are expected to commence soon, such as the Mandaluyong West and San Mateo-Rodriguez which will eventually serve more than 1.3 million population by 2037.

"For most cases, Manila Water also acquires the land where the STP are put up. Among the Metro Manila governments, Marikina is way ahead with an 80 percent coverage all spent for by Manila Water, and Mayor Marcy Teodoro wants 100-percent sewerage in the next two years. We will do that and that will make Marikina our model," Manila Water Chief Operating Officer Abelardo Basilio said.

To date, Manila Water operates 38 STP and 2 septage treatment plants with a total capacity of 310 MLD. **Angelica Ballesteros**



Dar: Swine fever rash 'contained'

By **Ronnel W. Domingo**
@RonWDomingoINQ

The outbreak of African swine fever in Rizal and Bulacan has been "contained and controlled" but strict surveillance continues in the two provinces, Agriculture Secretary William Dar said on Monday.

In a statement, Dar appealed to the press and the public not to "ignite fears" of African swine fever as unverified reports could cause irreversible damage to the country's swine industry.

The Philippine swine industry is valued at P260 billion a year, with backyard hog raisers contributing about two-thirds.

'Not an epidemic'

Dar said the African swine fever incidence in Bulacan and Rizal "may be considered an outbreak, but not an epidemic."

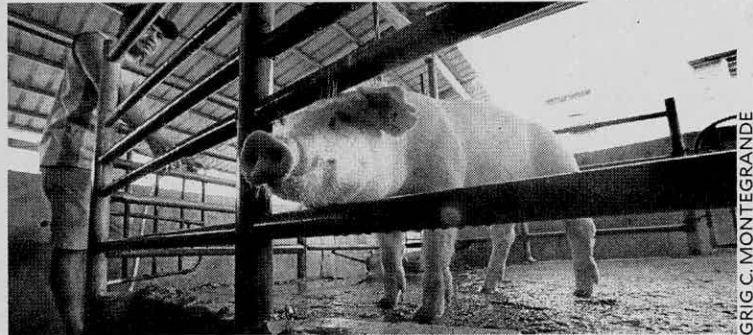
He said the outbreak had been contained at Barangay Pritil in Guiguinto, Bulacan, and in several villages in Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Antipolo in Rizal.

In Guiguinto, local veterinarians have started distributing disinfectants to backyard hog raisers to help contain the disease, Mayor Ambrosio Cruz said on Monday.

Cruz said local health officials had placed stockyards under strict quarantine procedures since the outbreak of African swine fever in August.

In his statement, Dar said African swine fever cases had not been observed nationwide.

He reported that more than 7,400 pigs had been culled in the infected areas in Rizal and Bulacan as part of the efforts of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to contain the disease.



UNDER OBSERVATION Noli Cruz, caretaker of a weighing station in Guiguinto, Bulacan province, watches over Babe.

GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

Dar said the outbreak would not affect the supply and prices of pork, stressing that the disease was confined to specific areas and had not spread across the country.

Malacañang said it was safe to eat pork.

"The DA said it is, and so it is," presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said on Monday when asked by reporters if pork in Metro Manila was safe to eat after the Quezon City local government reported that 11 dead pigs found in Barangay Bagong Silangan had tested positive for African swine fever.

The agriculture department disputed that report, stressing that testing of animals for the disease could not be done quickly.

Panelo said Quezon City should have consulted with the agriculture department first before reporting the matter.

Worries about the fitness of pork for human consumption in Metro Manila began to rise last week after 56 dead pigs were found floating on the Marikina River.

The Marikina local government buried the pigs and swore to bring charges against the

people who had dumped the carcasses on the river.

DENR probe

On Monday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Rizal deployed an inspection team to Rodriguez town, where the headwaters of the Marikina River is found, to try to discover the origin of the carcasses.

Earlier, the Bureau of Animal Industry confirmed the affliction of pigs in at least five villages in Rizal with African swine fever.

In Nueva Vizcaya province, the carcasses of 13 piglets were found at the back of the provincial agricultural terminal on Friday.

Roberto Busania, DA regional technical director for operations and extension in Cagayan Valley, said the piglets had died in the womb of a butchered sow and were dumped at the back of the terminal, which he described as "negligent," having caused worries among residents.

Busania dismissed reports that hogs in the region were infected with African swine fever. —WITH REPORTS FROM JULIE M. AURELIO, MARICAR CINCO, CARMELA REYES-ESTROPE AND VILLAMOR VISAYA JR. INQ



Pig farmers warned not to dump dead animals in rivers

THE government has not yet identified the farmers who dumped dead pigs found in a major Metro Manila river but warned hog raisers that disposing of dead animals in waterways is illegal and facilitates the spread of diseases like African Swine Fever (ASF).

Marikina City Veterinarian Manuel C. Carlos told *BusinessWorld* by phone that river recovery operations in the city have been suspended pending a finding on the hogs' cause of death.

"*Pinagbawal ni Mayor Marcelino [R.] Teodoro lahat ng activities dito kasi nga hindi natin alam kung ano yung ikinamatay nung mga baboy* (the mayor has suspended recovery operations because the cause of death has not been determined)," he said.

He added that ASF is not thought to be transmissible to

humans but the carcasses may be harboring other diseases.

Between Sept. 12 and 15, 58 dead pigs were recovered from the Marikina River.

Mr. Carlos said the authorities are still trying to determine the farms where the dead pigs are from and is awaiting the outcome of laboratory tests to confirm the cause of death.

He also said that water samples from the river are also being examined for contamination, adding that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is conducting the tests, which will take seven days.

Dead pigs have also been found at a creek in barangay Bagong Silangan, Quezon City. The Quezon City Veterinary Office declined to comment.

In an appearance Saturday on CNN Philippines, Quezon City

Mayor Josefina G. Belmonte said: "Two *barangays*, I think, have been verified (as) positive (for) ASF."

"There are three pigs that have been found in a creek in Barangay Bagong Silangan; it has now been verified that there are 11 mortalities in Barangay Bagong Silangan and they have been tested positive for African Swine Fever... that's one *barangay*," she said.

According to Google Maps, parts of Barangay Silangan border the Marikina river. The *barangay* is also directly east of Payatas, which is located on the shore of the La Mesa reservoir.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said Ms. Belmonte's determination of the disease was "too early" given that the time it takes to test for ASF.

Meanwhile, Malacañang said President Rodrigo R. Duterte will

not be issuing any orders on ASF, saying that it expects the DA to take the lead.

"There's no need for any directive from the Palace simply because the DA Secretary knows what he is going to do. He's been tasked to do it, and he is doing it," the President's Spokesperson, Salvador S. Panelo, said in a briefing.

The DA warned hog raisers against dumping dead pigs into waterways without reporting the deaths to the authorities. Quarantine procedures require that pigs killed by a suspected disease or culling be buried. — **Vincent Mariel P. Galang**

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link <bit.ly/DumpedSwine>



Sulat kay Editor

Isalba ang Marikina River

Dear Abante:

Hindi ko po lubos maisip kung ano ang tunay na hangarin ng nasa likod ng pagtatapon ng mga patay na baboy sa ilog sa Marikina. Walang maayos na pag-iisip ang gumawa nito na maaaring takot sa responsibilidad at pera-pera lamang ang mahalaga.

Hindi biro ang nasa 55 na mga patay na baboy na nauna ng natagpuan sa Ilog ng Marikina, lubhang napakalaki ng epekto nito sa kalusugan ng mga residente na naninirahan malapit sa palibot ng ilog, kaya naman marapat lamang na papanagutin ang tunay na may sala rito upang 'di na pamarisan pa.

Nandoon na tayo sa napakasakit na mapeste o malugi ang isang negosyo o ang bagay na pinagkakakitaan natin, pero normal lamang po ito na hindi laging nasa alapaap ang kita ng isang negosyante, mayroon at mayroon na mga pagsubok na dadating na kailangang malampasan, at inaayos sa mabuting paraan.

Umaasa po ako na mabigyan ng leksyon ang nasa likod ng walang habas na pagtatapon ng mga patay na baboy para 'di na mapamarisan pa ng iba.

Malinaw na ang ganitong gawain ay malaking kasiraan sa ating lipunan, malinaw na walang kaisahan sa ating pamahalaan ang may gawa nito, maaaring maliit lamang ito sa iba lalo na sa mga hindi naman apektado, pero pakaisipin po natin na ang simpleng pag-iingat sa ating kalikasan, kapwa, mga nakapaligid at iba pa na kung pagsasamahin ay iisang maunlad na bayan at bansa.

Aldren C. Mandalo mula sa Fairview, QC



Dumping ground for junk

Can we assert ourselves as a world-class country and economy if others see us as willing and happy receivers, thus a good place to dump their waste and junk? Often, this is at the cost of compromising the welfare and safety of our people.

With large numbers of poor Filipinos forced to make their living combing through trash in garbage dumps to find something of value therein, we as a country seem all too willing to be that dump for other countries' wastes and discards in order to do the same. These have ranged from outright garbage sent to us in container loads, to used vehicles and obsolete equipment of questionable safety and efficiency, and on to dirty industries that otherwise would not be allowed to operate in their origin countries. I need not expound further on the container loads of literal garbage shipped to willing importers here, some of which we have occasionally sent back to their source countries with much hula-baloo, even as we all know that a lot more must have already gotten through.

Through the years, chemical products and drugs banned overseas for being hazardous to human lives and the environment have found a willing market in our country, where laws and regulations are slow to catch on to international safety and environmental standards—and even when in place, are easily circumvented anyway due to lax enforcement. To this date, our farmers and households routinely use harmful pesticides and other chemical products long banned abroad. Food preparations from you-know-where are all over our markets even with questionable compliance with safety requirements in both



NO FREE LUNCH

CIELITO F. HABITO

the origin country and ours. Our authorities seem happy to look the other way, especially when importers are only too willing to pay the right price for such laxity.

In the 1990s, sugar industry players acquired discarded 1950s-vintage equipment from overseas to replace their 1920s-vintage machines, and called it "modernization." The sugar industry where they came from had upgraded to state-of-the-art technology. But here, with an exceptional 50-percent tariff protection, our own industry could afford to be 50 percent more costly and inefficient—hence the junked decades-old machines were "*puwede na*" (good enough). This history of persistent trade protection for a sector that wielded much political clout, coupled with a US sugar quota system that effectively subsidized our producers for decades, led our sugar industry to the vulnerability it finds itself in now that liberalization is inevitable, after pushing it back for decades. It's the same story that we're seeing in rice, now

caught in the midst of painful adjustment.

A current challenge now has a direct bearing on our government's ambitious "Build, build, build" infrastructure development program, particularly on the integrity and safety of the public structures it is putting in place. It has been a longstanding clamor of the country's legitimate steel producers that their quality products are being priced out of the market by inferior, substandard and unsafe steel products flooding us from China. The latter is saddled with overcapacity and large numbers of now outlawed induction furnaces that churn out inferior-grade products from molten scrap metal. The problem with these induction furnaces is that they do not remove impurities from the molten steel that compromise the product's tensile strength and safety, which is why the Chinese government itself has banned them. Here again, we have seemingly become a willing dump not only for the inferior products, but also for large numbers of the outlawed equipment used to make them.

Our government, through the Department of Trade and Industry and Department of Environment and Natural Resources, has finally formed a joint technical working group (TWG) to take action to curb these, after many years of pleas from our legitimate steel producers. The TWG is but a first step, and one hopes that the effort doesn't suffer the "death by committee" that many a government initiative had suffered in the past.

They say someone's trash is someone else's treasure—but certainly not when it compromises human health and endangers lives.

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NAGTULONG-TULONG ang mga tauhan ng Manila Department of Public Service (DPS) at Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) sa pag-aalis ng mga basura at puno na napadpad sa Manila Bay dahil sa walang tigil na pag-ulan kahapon.
Kuha ni **NORMAN ARAGA**



More Minahang Bayan approvals seen this year

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

The government expects at least six new Minahang Bayan applications to be approved within the year, an official of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said.

In an interview, MGB director Wilfredo Moncano told reporters the agency is making progress with its Minahang Bayan program, which aims to regulate small-scale mining operations in the country.

"We already have 29 declared Minahang Bayan areas and we're moving fast," Moncano said.

"We have endorsed a lot of applications to the Office of the Secretary (DENR) for clearance," he said.

Moncano said there are about five or six more applications endorsed to the DENR for clearance.

Moncano is hopeful the pending applications will be approved within the year as the program is the only way that small-scale mining will be legalized.

"Our understanding of the DENR secretary is that the only way to integrate the small-scale mining industry to the mainstream is through legalization," Moncano said.

He emphasized that as the program legalizes small-scale mining operations, stricter requirements would be needed for applications.

"Actually what's slowing down the declaration of a Minahang Bayan is because of the many requirements," Moncano said.

Apart from the five or six applications endorsed to the Office of the Secretary, Moncano said the MGB still has more than 100 Minahang Bayan applications on the table.

Meanwhile, Moncano stressed the importance of the declaration of a Minahang Bayan, noting that small-scale mining contracts cannot be issued unless an area is declared as a Minahang Bayan.

Earlier this year, MGB approved the contract between the government and the Loacan Itogon Pocket Miners Association (LIPMA) in Itogon, Benguet for the declaration of a 64.4 hectare site as a Minahang Bayan.

It is estimated that more than 60 percent of the gold mined in the Philippines are from unregulated small-scale operations.

Declaring an area as a Minahang Bayan will centralize the processing of minerals within a zone where the government will be able to monitor gold production by small-scale miners better.

It helps the government curb illegal mining and mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of indiscriminate mining operations in the country.



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BARMM suspends nickel mining

A nickel mining hub in southern Philippines, which produces mostly high-grade material, has suspended extraction operations indefinitely as the regional government conducts an industry audit, a top government official told Reuters on Monday. The government of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) has suspended operations of all four mining companies in its jurisdiction, said Environment, Natural Resources and Energy Minister Abdulraof Abdul Macacua. "The suspension order was due to the ongoing review of mining policy in BARMM," Macacua said in an e-mail reply to Reuters' queries about the status of mining in the region's Tawi-Tawi province. The Philippines was the world's second-largest nickel ore producer in 2018 after Indonesia, with both Southeast Asian nations as the top two suppliers to biggest buyer China. (Reuters)



Manila and Tokyo ink mining cooperation pact

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Philippines and Japan recently signed a landmark mining cooperation agreement that is expected to boost the minerals development sector in the two countries.

A memorandum of cooperation (MOC) was signed on August 16 in Tokyo between Minister Yoshihiko Isozaki of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Meti) of Japan and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones on behalf of Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

In a news statement, Cimatu said he expects a more efficient and environmentally sustainable mining in the country with the signing of the MOC agreement with Japan.

"We are gradually entering into a new realm and climbing greater heights when it comes to mining with this cooperation with the Japanese government," Cimatu said.

The MOC aims to promote and carry out cooperative activities toward sustainable mining in both countries.

The agreement came into effect from the date of signing until 2022.

Under the agreement, the two countries agreed to support each other in promoting sustainable development in their respective mining and mineral resources sectors.

Both countries are hoping to strengthen their ties through regular dialogues and cooperation in the areas of mining policy on exploration, development and

operation; information sharing on supply-demand trends; and best practices of sustainable development and operation in mining.

Other areas of concern are security in exploration, development, and operation of mines; appropriate environmental impact assessment; and improvement of investment environment to attract more investors to the mining sector.

In line with the MOC, the Philippines's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp. (Jogmec) entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for environmental cooperation covering the fiscal year 2019.

MGB and Jogmec agreed to undertake measures to protect the environment and rehabilitate the areas affected by mining operations, as provided for in the MOC signed by the DENR and Meti.

Under the MOU, a total of 15 personnel from the MGB central and regional offices will be sent to Japan to undergo an 11-day training on mine pollution control and environmental policies to be administered by Jogmec. The training will be held in two batches: October 2019 and January 2020.

The MOU was signed by MGB Acting Director Wilfredo Moncano and Jogmec Executive Vice President Hajime Ikeda.

Japan, once a world-class producer of metals now has 5,000 suspended and abandoned mines throughout the country and Jogmec has been rehabilitating mines and working on mine pollution control since the 1970s.



PHILIPPINE STAER/ANDY ZAPATA, JR.



Six sites recommended for use by small miners

THE mining regulator has identified six potential areas suitable for small-scale miners and expects final approval of the sites by the end of the year.

Wilfredo G. Moncano, director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), told reporters the bureau has initially cleared applications for six sites under the so-called "Minahang Bayan" program.

"*Ang nakita ko na-endorse nasa anim* (Six sites have been endorsed), *so kung lahat 'yun ma-clear* (if all are cleared)... additional five or six [will be operational within the year]."

About 60% of the gold mined in the Philippines is produced by unregulated small-scale miners. The designation of Minahang Bayan reservations is intended to centralize the processing of minerals to protect the environment and ensure miner safety.

There are 29 sites carrying the Minahang Bayan designation with 100 more sites applying for the status.

Mr. Moncano said the procedure for making such a declaration is slow.

"*Ang dami lang* (There are many) requirements... *hindi lang ganun kabilis* (the process is not that fast)," he said.

He said the MGB backs the amendment of Republic Act 7076, the Minahang Bayan Law, to streamline the approval process.

Under RA 7076, the declaration of a Minahang Bayan re-

quires the filing of a petition or request, the examination of the area, and stakeholder consultations.

After the declaration, interested operators are expected to meet certain standards before being allowed to operate at the site.

The application process for operators includes a fee of P1,000, and proof of registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Department of Trade and Industry, Cooperative Development Authority, or other such government agencies. The process is open only to 100% Filipino-owned firms.

All gold mined at the site must be sold to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), or its representatives, at competitive prices relative to those prevailing in the world market regardless of volume or weight.

Mr. Moncano also noted that RA 11256, or an Act to Strengthen the Country's Gross International Reserves (GIR), will help encourage more small-scale miners to register in order to avail of the law's excise tax exemption.

"That's one incentive on the part of small scale miners to be legalized and be formalized *para ma-avail nila 'yan para hindi sila habul-habulin ng gobyerno* (in order for them to claim the exemption which frees the government from having to run after them)," he said. — **Vincent Mariel P. Galang**



Phl-Japan pact seen boosting local mining

The two countries also agreed to support each other in promoting sustainable development in their respective mining and mineral resources sectors

The Philippines, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has signed a three-year cooperation agreement with Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) to promote and implement cooperative activities toward sustainable mining.

"We are gradually entering into a new realm and climbing greater heights when it comes to mining with this cooperation with the Japanese government," Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

The agreement, he explained, aims to strengthen ties in the mining industries between the Philippines and Japan through regular dialogues and cooperation in the areas of mining policy on exploration, development and operations. The memorandum of cooperation or MoC also includes information sharing on supply-demand trends and best practices of sustainable development and operation in mining.

The agreement lapses on 2022.

The two countries also agreed to support each other in promoting sustainable development in their respective mining and mineral resources sectors.

Also listed as among the two countries' areas of concern were security in exploration, development and operation of mines; appropriate environmental impact assessment; and improvement of investment environment to attract more investors to the mining sector.

The MoC was signed on 16 August 2019 in Tokyo by Minister Yoshihiko Isozaki of METI and DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas Leones on Cimatu's behalf.

The agreement lapses on 2022.

In line with the MoC, the country's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp. (JOGMEC) also signed another memorandum of understanding (MoU) on environmental cooperation covering fiscal year 2019.

MGB and JOGMEC agreed to undertake measures to protect the environment and rehabilitate the areas affected by mining operations, as provided for in the MoC signed by the DENR and METI. The MoU was signed by MGB acting director Wilfredo Moncano and JOGMEC executive vice president Hajime Ikeda.

A total of 15 personnel from MGB's central office and regional offices will be sent to Japan to undergo JOGMEC's 11-day training on mine pollution control and environmental policies.

Maria Romero



More areas eyed for small-scale mining

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it seeks to declare six additional "Minahang Bayan" for use by small-scale miners in order to have them legalized and regulated.

"We have moved forward and progressed. There are already 29 Minahang Bayan and we're doing fast. We have endorsed six more to the Office of the Secretary for clearance," said DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Wilfredo Moncano at the sidelines of the recently-held Mining Philippines 2019 International Conference and Exhibition in Pasay City.

The Minahang Bayan Law was one of the provisions of Executive Order (EO) 79 issued by then-president Benigno Aquino 3rd in 2012, which aims to implement mining reforms in the country to ensure environmental protection and promote responsible utiliza-

tion of mineral resources.

The "Republic Act 7076, known as the People's Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991," states that small-scale mining operation should only be allowed within a declared Minahang Bayan.

Under the law for small-scale mining, only three metallic minerals are allowed. These are gold, silver and chromite.

Moncano said the DENR-MGB has received more than a hundred of Minahang Bayan applications, however, "strict requirements", slow down the declaration of such mining reservations.

Specifically, the MGB designates the Minahang Bayan upon the endorsement of the (provincial mining regulatory boards) PMRBs.

The Minahang Bayan Law gives the PMRB the authority to, among others, formulate and implement rules and regulations related to

small-scale mining.

Despite such requirements, Moncano said there was no stopping DENR's goal of additional Minahang Bayan to change public perception towards mining industry.

"The understanding of the [DENR] secretary [Roy Cimatu] is that the only way to integrate the small-scale mining to the mainstream is the legalization," Moncano said.

Miners undertaking their operations in Minahang Bayan need to comply with regulations, including environmental rules, and the mandatory sale of gold to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) only. The government also closely looks at the miners' safety, sanitation and payment of correct taxes.

Therefore, declaring more Minahang Bayan areas nationwide increases the opportunity for

► Mining B4

MINING FROM B1

More areas eyed for small-scale

government to track small-scale mining.

Moncano said the DENR-MGB is in discussions with the BSP and several lawmakers in lobbying for the amendment of RA 7076.

"There are several provisions in the Small-Scale Mining Act that need to be amended. First, under the law, the small-scale mining law is only for six years, but when it gets amended it will be continuous as long as there are reserves. Second, we want to differentiate the artisan and small-scale mining. The interpretation is that small-scale mining is the actual manual labor without the use of any mining equipment. But the time has changed [as they have been using machines like conveyors]. So we will be proposing the limit of extrusives," he explained.

To intensify regulation over small-scale

miners in different quarrying sites across all provinces in the country, the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) last year recommended for the implementation of the "big brother approach" which focuses efforts on establishing "proper coordination" between the government and small-scale miners.

"[T]he established big mining company that's working in the area [should] work in coordination with the government and with the small-scale miners," PMSEA President Walter William Brown earlier said.

"Some of them (small mining companies) can integrate into mines but deal with the established mining companies because the small also have small capital to comply [with]," Brown added.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ



PH, Japan sign mining cooperation agreement

A MORE efficient and environmentally sustainable mining will soon be implemented with the signing of a "landmark" mining cooperation agreement between the Philippines and Japan.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu said with the signing of the agreement, the country is now gradually entering into a new realm and climbing greater heights when it comes to mining with this cooperation with the Japanese government.

The Philippines recently signed a three-year memorandum of cooperation (MOC) with Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) to promote and carry out cooperative activities toward sustainable mining in both countries.

The MOC was signed last August 16 in Tokyo by Minister Yoshihiko Isozaki of METI and DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas Leones on Cimatu's behalf.

The agreement, that took effect from the date of signing until 2022, aims to strengthen cooperation in the mining industries between the Philippines and Japan.

The two countries agreed to support each other in promoting sustainable development in their respective mining and mineral resources sectors.

Both countries were hoping to strengthen their ties through regular dialogues and cooperation in the areas of mining policy on exploration, development and operation; information sharing on supply-demand trends; and best practices of sustainable development and operation in mining.

Other areas of concern are security in exploration, development and operation of mines; appropriate environmental impact assessment; and improve-

ment of investment environment to attract more investors to the mining sector.

In the MOC, the Philippines' Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp. (JOGMEC) entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for environmental cooperation covering the fiscal year 2019.

MGB and JOGMEC agreed to undertake measures to protect the environment and rehabilitate the areas affected by mining operations, as provided for in the MOC signed by the DENR and METI.

Under the MOU, a total of 15 personnel from the MGB central office and regional offices will be sent to Japan to undergo an 11-day training on mine pollution control and environmental policies to be administered by JOGMEC.

The training will be held in two batches -- October 2019 and January 2020.

MGB acting director Wilfredo Moncano and JOGMEC executive vice president Hajime Ikeda signed the MOU.

Japan, once a world class producer of metals, now has 5,000 suspended and abandoned mines throughout the country and JOGMEC has been rehabilitating mines and working on mine pollution control since the 1970s.

Cory Martínez



Land grabbing in Calbayog ordered probed

By Jess Malabanan

TACLOBAN CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources -Land Management and Maps Bureau is investigating alleged massive land-grabbing activities by a businessman allegedly in cahoots with some personnel of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office stationed in Catbalogan City.

DENR-LMMB director Eduardo Unay issued the directive in the wake of complaints filed by rightful land owners here, mostly coconut farmers, who say their lot numbers were intentionally deleted from the records in favor of the unscrupulous individual.

Jose Sagala Sucapco, 58, of Barangay San Joaquin, Calbayog City, who represents the Sagala family's heirs, said the lot numbers for the agricultural property owned by his late grandparents were deleted, and instead replaced by another set of numbers that fall in an unclassified forest (timberland) when checked.

Sucapco said his family was paying real property tax not knowing that the lot number designated in their Tax Declaration is for unclassified forest.



Itoyon landslide commemorated

ITOGON, Benguet – The mining community here commemorated the massive landslide that killed around a hundred people during the onslaught of typhoon “Ompong” (Mangkut) on 15 September 2018 with a simple program and a traditional ritual to “silence” the spirits.

“We are conducting the ritual in observance of our cultural heritage in the Cordillera,” Mayor Victor Palangdan told attendees here on Sunday.

“This is in respect to those who went before us and for the souls who still hunt the place and

the lives of their relatives. Through this we ask for peace and tranquility of our souls and mind that we may live peacefully,” Palangdan said.

The local government of Itoyon organized the “Pammakan,” a native ritual that involves the butchering of animals for offering so that the spirits of those who have passed away would guide the town and prevent a repeat of the tragedy.

Palangdan said after the onslaught of Ompong, the community learned its lesson and that is to cooperate and abide by the instructions of authorities. He said the tragedy

in Itoyon was a wake-up call for the community.

“The community has learned its lesson the hard way, many lives were taken last year. But because they now know the importance of heeding the instruction of their officials, they voluntarily leave their households when it rains especially those in areas identified by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) as high risk and no-build zones,” he said.

The MGB earlier declared a large portion of Itoyon as unsafe, uninhabitable and within the “no-build” zones. **MBA**



17 SEP 2019

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Forum on culture, heritage, wildlife and tourism

Amid the government's efforts to so-called rehabilitate Manila Bay lie the planned massive reclamation projects which aim to reclaim almost the entire shoreline of Manila Bay. Based on the list of the Philippine Reclamation Authority, at least 22 Manila Bay projects are in the pipeline, four of which are big-ticket reclamation in the City of Manila: Manila Solar City Reclamation Project, Manila Waterfront City Reclamation Project, City of Pearl, and Horizon Manila Reclamation Project. Alarm has been raised on the environmental impacts and ecological damage that these will cause. Groups and individuals speaking and attending this media forum are putting forward serious implications to Manila Bay's culture, heritage, and tourism.

This happens today, 17 September 2019 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Manila Yacht Club on Roxas Boulevard, Manila.



Understanding plastics around you

ENVIRONMENT and health advocates see plastics as silent killers.

Around two million bottles are sold every five minutes worldwide. Without doubt, plastic is the most consumed product in the entire world.

However, according to newest research, plastic bottles may be harming our wellbeing. In fact, plastic bottles might be slowly killing people. Take a look at what is written on their bottom.

Previously, it was thought that bottled water is a better option than tap water as it was rich in vitamins. However, it was actually tap water put in plastic bottles, making it an environmentally unfriendly

hydration source.

Knowing the symbols at the bottom of the bottles would keep you safe from harm. At the bottom of these bottles, you should look for a triangle with a number from one to seven. These numbers indicate whether the product is safe or not.

* **PET.** This bottle is known as PET or PETE and it shouldn't be reused due to the possibility of antimony emission. Antimony is a heavy metal that can cause problems with the hormones and it can also be carcinogenic.

* **HDP.** This bottle is known as HDPE or HDP and it's made of good plastic with a very small level of chemicals emission, unlike the other types of bottles.

* **V.** This bottle is known as V or PVC and it contains two toxic chemicals which can cause hormonal disruption. However, PVC is one of the most common types of plastic used nowadays.

* **LDPE.** This bottle is known as LDPE and it's considered as good plastic. It's usually used in water bottles and plastic bags. They don't emit chemicals when they're used in water bottles.

* **PP.** This plastic is safe for use. It's usually used in the production of syrup bottles and yogurt cups.

* **STIREN.** This plastic is considered carcinogenic as it emits STIREN. It's mostly used in fast food packaging and coffee cups.

* **PC.** Known as PC, this plastic needs to be avoided as it emits BPA, a detrimental chemical. This plastic is mostly used for the production of food containers, sports drink bottles, and infant bottles.

All in all, the safest bottles that you can continue to use are number two, number four, and number five. Avoid the other types as much as possible to lower your exposure to chemicals





'Angry' Thai teenager wages 'war' on plastic

BANGKOK — Skipping school to glide through a dirty Bangkok canal on a paddleboard, Lilly fishes out rubbish in her mission to clean up Thailand, where the average person uses eight plastic bags every single day.

"I am a kid at war," the bubbly 12-year-old says after a painstaking hour-long routine picking up cans, bags and bottles bobbing in the canal.

"I try to stay optimistic but I am also angry. Our world is disappearing," she adds.

Thailand is the sixth largest global contributor to ocean pollution, and plastic is a scourge.

Whether it's for wrapping up street food, take-away coffees or for groceries, Thais use 3,000 single use bags per year — 12 times more than someone from the European Union.

In June, Lilly won her first victory: she persuaded Central, a major supermarket in Bangkok, to stop giving out plastic bags in its stores once a week.

"I told myself that if the government did not listen to me, it would be necessary to speak directly to those who distribute plastic bags and convince them to stop," she explains.

This month some of the biggest brands, including the operator of the ubiquitous 7-Eleven convenience stores, pledged to stop handing out single-use plastic bags by January next year.

Mindsets have started to shift this year with the deaths of several marine mammals whose stomachs were lined with plastic, stirring emotions.

The demise last month of a baby dugong was mourned on social media, reviving discussion in the government over a proposed ban on most single-use plastics by 2022.

But critics say along with new rules there need



12-year-old Ralyn Satidtanasarn, known by her nickname Lilly, collects plastic waste during the Trash Hero cleaning initiative at the Khung Bang Kachao urban forest and beach in Bangkok. AFP

to be enforcement mechanisms such as fines.

For now young activists like Lilly can help capture attention.

"You might be able to tune out all of the evidence and advocacy in the world, but it's very hard to ignore a child when they ask why we're trashing the planet that they have to live on," says Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida, regional coordinator for chemicals, waste and air quality with UN Environment.

Lilly is Ralyn Satidtanasarn's nickname.

The US-Thai youngster started campaigning at the age of eight after a seaside vacation in southern Thailand where she was horrified by a beach covered in rubbish.

"We cleaned up with my parents, but that was not helpful because other waste was thrown out by the sea the next day," she recalls.

Then came the global movement initiated by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg, who has become a key face in the battle against global warming.

Inspired by the young Swede, Lilly did sit-ins in front of the Thai government buildings.

"Greta Thunberg gave me confidence. When adults do not do anything,

it's up to us children to act," she insists.

Though she often skips class to carry out her activism, she will not be in New York alongside Thunberg for a protest on September 20 just days before the UN climate conference.

"My place is here, the fight is also in Southeast Asia," she says.

Even if she sometimes wants to take a break and "go play" like other kids, she also takes part in cleaning sessions organised by local association Trash Hero.

Other activists praise her but say she is up against massive corporate interests.

The main obstacle is the petrochemical industry, one of the main markets for plastics, accounting for 5 percent of Thailand's GDP and tens of thousands of jobs.

"Lilly is a very good voice for the youth of this country but the lobbies are very powerful and that makes any change difficult," concedes Natapong Nithiuthai, who set up a company turning discarded waste into flip flops.

She can also count on the support of her parents, who help her write speeches to the UN and government officials. **AFP**



80 PORSIYENTO NG POLUSYON DULOT NG LUMANG SASAKYAN

Samantala, inihayag ng Department of Natural Resources (DENR) na maraming lumang sasakyan sa Metro Manila at kabilang dito ang mga kakarag-karag na jeepney na ginagamit nang may 15 taon hanggang 20 taon na ngayon.

Ang mga lumang sasakyang pamasadang ito ang nagdudulot ng matinding polusyon sa Kalakhang Maynila at mga kanugnog na mga lungsod.

Ayon sa DENR, 80 porsiyento ng emission o usok na galing sa mga tambutso ng sasakyan partikular ng mga pamasadang jeepney na lumalason sa hangin ang dahilan ng pagkakaroon ng karamdaman at kamatayan ng maraming mamamayan na naapektuhan nito.

Bukod sa polusyon, ang mga lumang jeep din umano ang dahilan ng mga malalagim na aksidente sapagkat gastado na ang preno dahilan para aruruhin ang pedestrians at mga bahay.



Obituary on climate alarmism, new face of global warming

First word

WHEN United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres convenes on Monday, September 23, the UN Climate Action summit in New York City, major developments in the climate debate will take place one way or the other.

To help this event unfold and achieve maximum scare effect on humanity, climate alarmists and their supporters will step up their forecast of climate apocalypse and unveil new claims that the world is hurtling irrevocably to its doom.

I want to publish today my own reply to this unending fearmongering by the alarmist movement: *an advance obituary on climate alarmism, climate crisis and climate apocalypse.*

Dr. Patrick Moore, the Canadian climate skeptic and a Greenpeace co-founder, told me in a comment on one of my columns, that he believes the collapse of the alarmist movement is nearing.

Signs of collapse

I remember Moore's words now because I myself see the unmistakable signs that the cult of global warming will be experiencing soon an existential crisis. It is not the world, whose existence is under immediate threat, it is rather the climate change scam.

The writing is on the wall. Among the unmistakable signs are:

1. Climate action totally flopped at the G-7 summit in France just last month. The world's leading economies refused to take up climate alarm in its agenda.

2. When the Climate Action summit opens in New York City on Monday, a teenage Swedish climate activist will address the conference and sound her personal call to action to the world to urgently stop climate change. She will become the new face of climate alarmism, replacing former US vice president Al Gore, who is now too old and has lost credibility.

3. The collective weight of major research studies and articles by major writers and leaders point to a convincing argument that the climate crisis is just a travesty.



OBSERVER

YEN
MAKABENTA

Advance obituary

I got the idea of suggesting to my fellows in the climate realists movement that we compose an advance obituary on climate alarmism because as a former newspaper editor, I know of the practice of publications and media organizations of preparing advance obituaries on persons of note and celebrities.

It occurs to me that climate change is just one of many doomsday forecasts for the world, one of many hoaxes perpetrated by people hungry for publicity and a measure of control over society.

How does mankind learn that a particular doomsday forecast has bombed? Do the media post a story on its utter failure? Are the doomsayers made to swallow back their ululations?

The columnist Cal Thomas, America's most widely syndicated columnist, wrote a column on this very topic in November last year, which he titled rhetorically, "Apocalypse when?"

Cal wrote: "Each time an end-of-the-world prophecy is delivered — whether by a self-deluded preacher, a group of politicians or scientists — we are told that we must believe. Never mind how many of their prophecies have been wrong in the past, this time they mean it.

"The latest prophecy of doom and planetary extinction comes from a government report authored by people appointed during the Obama administration. This report, and others before it, concluded that Earth is warming, humans are responsible and that we have only 10 years to fix it. But wait, haven't there been earlier deadlines, which have passed, and aren't we still here with weather patterns behaving much as they have before, to wit, hot summers, cold winters, fires, floods and

earthquakes?

"So what is the truth and how can we know it?

"The media and much of political Washington, including even a few Republicans, have accepted this flawed doctrine as truth. They claim climate change is 'settled science' and many believe it. Why? Because of unsettling comments from scientists with experience and knowledge in the field; and scientists who lack a political agenda, are largely ignored by leftists who want even more government control over our lives... If this doctrine were to be accepted as fact, our economy would crumble and the outcome would produce little if any change in global temperatures."

New face of global warming

The most tantalizing piece of news that I have gotten which point to the inevitable collapse of the climate alarmism is the news that Al Gore, the pope of global warming, will soon be replaced by a new face on September 23.

In an editorial titled, "The one person who shows how unhinged global warming alarmism has become," *Issues and Insight* posted this comment:

"The face of the global warming scare was once that of Al Gore. Now that face belongs to a 16-year-old girl who's being treated as a prophetess. It's hard to conceive of a world gone more mad.

"Greta Thunberg has been thrust into the spotlight, tagged as the child who will lead us away from our inevitable climate disaster — if only we let her. Adults hang on her words, regard her as an omniscient oracle, insist that we are in the presence of our savior.

"Thunberg's 'voice lets us know we're in disavowal, and that we'd better wake up. Then it tells us, clear as anything, how to do this,' says Ali Smith, a Scottish author who writes for *The Guardian*....

"[T]his child mystic of Sweden has been allowed to speak at the Davos economic conference, in Britain's Parliament, and at a United Nations convention. She's inspired a global

school walkout and protested in front of Sweden's legislature when she should have been in school. The kids at Vox have declared that when watching Thunberg speak, 'it's hard not to think of Cassandra, the brash young warrior of Greek myth who beseeched Apollo for the gift of prophecy.'

"The more reasonable among us see a young lady who's being exploited by an intractable, alarmist movement and a set of parents craving, what, relevance may be....

"The story says Thunberg arrived at her activism on her own, first hearing about global warming at 8, then becoming depressed at 11, ostensibly because the world wasn't responding to global warming adequately enough to suit her. But she's no priestess ordained by the Almighty, just a vessel used to repeat global warming propaganda. She's a human shield held up to protect the disseminators of junk science, radicals determined to take over the global economy, and an assortment of angry agitators.

"When Thunberg says 'we need to rapidly remove all fossil fuels from our everyday life and leave them in the ground,' that 'we must remember that this is above all an emergency — not primarily an opportunity to create new green economic growth. We need a whole new way of thinking,' she is doing nothing more than following the alarmist handbook. There's no revelation there, no new words from heaven. Just the tired, unoriginal rhetoric we've endured for years.

"It's unlikely to happen, but every adult who has placed Thunberg on a pedestal should be embarrassed for taking seriously what is so plainly a stunt, for so obviously trying to signal their moral superiority over the unbelieving rubes, for flattering themselves as sages who recognize greatness. They should be ashamed for hitching themselves to the operators who are cashing in on the girl. They should be held to account for failing, or refusing, to recognize they are giving life to a cult, one that a mentally healthy society would have already turned back."

Without the Nobel laureate, what will happen now to the climate crisis?

yenmakaabenta@yahoo.com



POWER SUPPLY DEFICIT SEEN

ONCE the Malampaya gas field goes offline in October, the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) is seeing a power supply deficit of almost a thousand megawatts (MW) within its franchise area, its official said.

In an interview on Monday, Meralco President and Chief Executive Officer Ray Espinosa said the power distributor is expecting a supply shortfall of 600 MW to 900 MW within the first week.

He also mentioned that several power plants will have their scheduled maintenance.

"We have alerted the [Department of Energy] DoE already that there are scheduled outages already in October, as early as the 1st week," Espinosa said at the sidelines of Meralco's signing of power supply agreements (PSAs) held in its main office in Pasig City.

"The facility's shutdown is scheduled, but still, it's good to have enough supply," he added.

The Malampaya Deepwater Gas-to-Power Project fuels about 40 percent of Luzon's electricity requirements. It powers five gas-fired power plants in Batangas with a combined capacity of 3,211 MW, namely Sta. Rita (1,000 MW), San Lorenzo (500 MW), Ilijan (1,200 MW), Avion (97 MW), and San Gabriel (414 MW).

Earlier, the Malampaya consortium — composed of Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX) as the operator, Chevron Malampaya LLC, and state-run

► Deficit B4

DEFICIT FROM B1

POWER

PNO Exploration Corp. - informed the DoE that the natural gas facility will undergo maintenance shutdown from October 12-15.

The joint venture conducts regular maintenance shutdown of the natural gas field normally every two years.

Amid the looming temporary closure of the Malampaya gas field, the DoE assured consumers that power supply will be sufficient and that demand is expected to be low on the dates covered by the shutdown.

Based on the data from the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP), the projected capacity from October 11 to 17 is 12,017 megawatts (MW) while demand is 10,550 MW. This leaves a

reserve of 1,467 MW during those days.

Although Meralco has a contingency plan, Espinosa said additional power supply could have been sourced from the 455-MW supercritical coal-fired power plant in Mauban, Quezon that is supposed to go online this month.

He added: "You know supply is always tight, so we need additional capacity."

The P56.2-billion coal plant of San Buenaventura Power Ltd. Co. (SBPL) — a joint venture of MGen, the power generation arm of Meralco and New Growth B.V., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Electricity Generating Public Co. Ltd. (EGCO) of Thailand — was supposed to commence commercial operations on September 15.

Once completed, SBPL will sell the electricity generated by the plant to Meralco under a 20-year power supply agreement approved by the regulator

in May 2015.

However, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) is yet to issue the provisional authority to operate the plant. A certificate of compliance (CoC) is necessary before any power generating plant goes online.

"They've asked a question regarding the water use but the water rights have been issued in favor of Meralco by the National Water Regulatory Board (NWRB)," Espinosa explained.

"From what I understand, the ERC asked [the] NWRB whether San Buenaventura can use water," he said. "I'm really hoping that this issue on water rights, which I don't think should be an issue, should be resolved."

The Meralco executive said the coal facility is ready to supply electricity and that it has performed well in the stability tests.

JORDEENE B. LAGARE



Mactan Airport intensifies Go Green campaign

We took this step forward starting with our commercial partners as our commitment to environmental sustainability

By Rico M. Osmeña

The Mactan Cebu International Airport (MCIA) has intensified its "Go Green" campaign especially on banning the use of non-biodegradable single-use plastics and polystyrene containers in restaurants and shops inside the airport.

The disclosure was made by GMR Megawide Cebu Airport Corporation (GMCAC) Chief Executive Advisor Andrew Acquaah-Harrison.

"We took this step forward starting with our commercial partners as our commitment to environmental sustainability," Acquaah-Harrison said.

The Mactan Cebu International Airport

Authority (MCIAA) and GMCAC, which operates the Philippines' resort airport, has implemented the ban on single-use plastics this year by prohibiting its concessionaires from using non-biodegradable plastics and polystyrene containers in restaurants and retail stores located in Terminals 1 and 2.

MCIA had 42,000 kilograms annually or 3,500 kilograms monthly average of plastic wastes, but with the campaign, it is now down by close to 30 percent or a decrease of around 12,000 kilograms per year, Harrison added.

The Go Green campaign encourages the use of eco-friendly and reusable substitutes.

Presently, airport concessionaires are already compliant at 80 percent in using

biodegradable alternatives such as plant starch utensils, paper cups and straws, wood stirrers, paper bags and carton boxes for takeaway food.

MCIAA and GMCAC hold regular information and education campaigns for all airport concessionaires and stakeholders to raise awareness on the impact of plastic use to the environment.

Harrison added that aside from zero-plastic use at the MCIA, GMCAC initiated other environmental programs like the use of 6,300 solar panels on the roof of T-1 to supply electricity for the airport, making MCIA as the first solar-powered airport in the Philippines.

On a monthly average, the solar panel system produces 196,800 per kilowatt-hour and provides for 30 percent of the electricity requirements of the domestic terminal.

The Go Green campaign at the MCIA is being fully supported by the MCIAA, said General Manager Atty. Steve Diccican.



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EDITORIAL



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DENR displays full might vs GSIS

Games Sunday (Pasig City Sports Center)
2 p.m. – Agriculture vs Ombudsman/
3:30 p.m. – Philhealth vs AFP
5 p.m. – Malacañang vs Judiciary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) debuted triumphantly while National Housing Authority and Ombudsman scored contrasting wins in the 8th UNTV Cup over the weekend at the Pasig City Sports Center.

The DENR Warriors leaned on

the heroics of Ralph Lansang to outlast the GSIS Furies, 101-98, while the NHA Builders of Bennett Palad defeated the Philippine National Police Responders, 85-81, in Group II elims.

The Ombudsman Graft Busters spoiled the SSS Kabalikat's debut with a 110-73 drubbing in the lone Group I match of the event presented by UNTV through its President and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

Lansang shattered a 98-all count with a three-point shot with barely four ticks left to cap a brilliant 51-point show – so far the highest scoring output in the league for public servants.

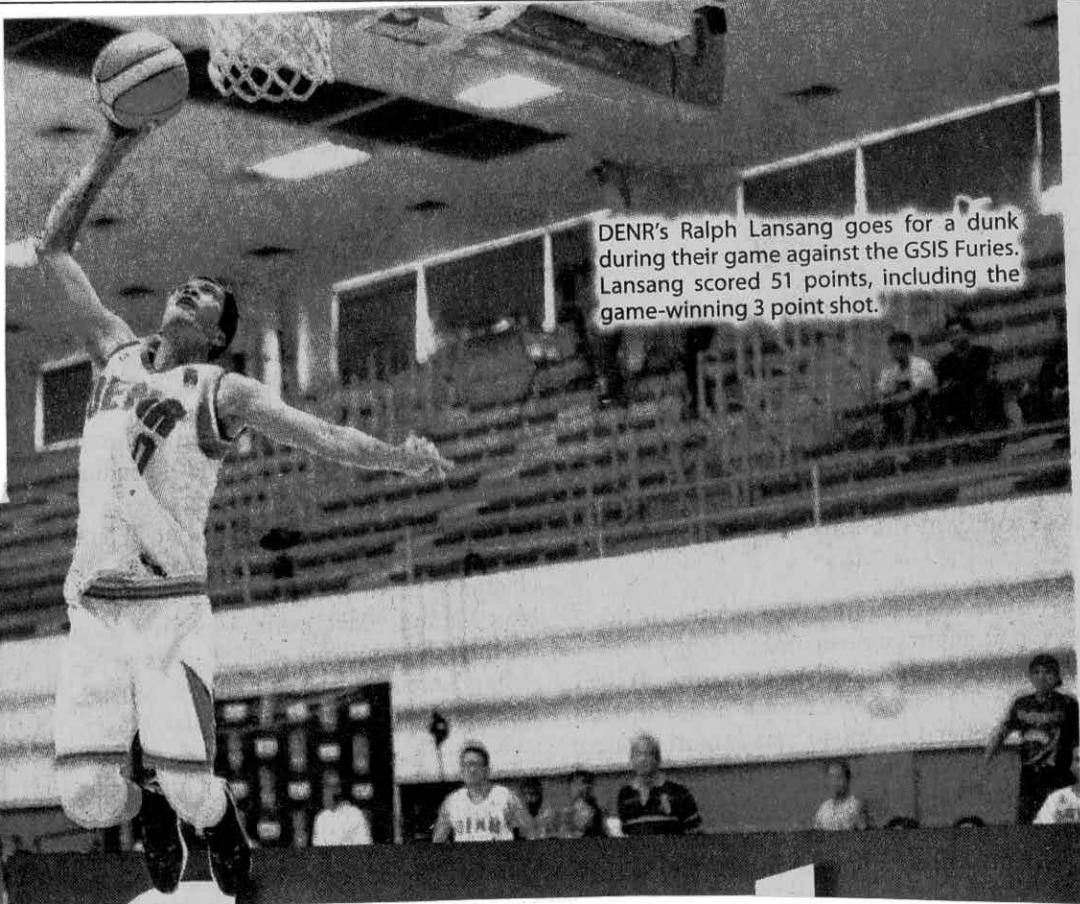
He was ably supported by Ed Rivera who posted 22 points, eight rebounds and five assists that helped negate the 49-point performance of GSIS' Bernante Parreño, including a league record 12 triples.



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DENR's Ralph Lansang goes for a dunk during their game against the GSIS Furies. Lansang scored 51 points, including the game-winning 3 point shot.



Lansang lifts Warriors past Furies in UNTV Cup

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources debuted triumphantly, while National Housing Authority and Ombudsman scored contrasting wins in the 8th UNTV Cup held over the weekend at the Pasig City Sports Center.

Games Sunday

(Pasig City Sports Center)

2 p.m. – Agriculture vs Ombudsman

3:30 p.m. – Philhealth vs AFP

5 p.m. – Malacañang vs Judiciary

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He was ably supported by Ed Rivera who posted 22 points, 8 rebounds and 5 assists that helped negate the 49-point performance of GSIS' Bernante Parreño, including a league record 12 triples.

Former UST player Bernon Franco led Ombudsman's well-balanced attack with 30 points and 16 rebounds as the Graft Busters made known their title aspiration this time after a botched bid last season.

In a rematch of last year's battle for third place, the Builders went to Alvin Vitug and Marvin Mercado once again to repeat over the PNP Responders, 85-81.

Vitug tallied 31 points, including five free throws in the last 46 seconds.

The chosen charity of the champion team will get the top prize of P4 million.



DENR's Ralph Lansang goes for a dunk during their game against the GSIS Furies. Lansang scored 51 points, including the game-winning 3 point shot.

DENR triumphant in UNTV debut

Games Sunday
(Pasig City Sports Center)
2 p.m. – Agriculture vs Ombudsman
3:30 p.m. – Philhealth vs AFP
5 p.m. – Malacañang vs Judiciary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) debuted triumphantly while National Housing Authority and Ombudsman scored contrasting wins in the 8th UNTV Cup held over the weekend at the Pasig City Sports Center.

The DENR Warriors leaned on the heroics of Ralph Lansang to outlast the GSIS Furies, 101-98, while the NHA Builders of Bennett Palad defeated the Philippine Na-

tional Police Responders, 85-81, in Group II elims.

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TITLE:

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SINUBUKAN n'yo na bang pagmasdan ang mga nilalaman ng Senate Bill No. 1271 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity or Expression na isinusulong ng isang senador?

Kahit sino, pwede palang makulong kung magkamali siya ng pagtrato o tahasan mong balewalain ang karapatan ng mga Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer at iba pa.

Sa titulo pa lang ng batas, nasa dulo nito ang salitang "providing penalties therefor" at mararamdaman mo agad na kasong kriminal ang kaha-harapin mo, bukod sa mga administratibo at sibil na kaso.

MAKUKULONG SI POPE FRANCIS

Isa sa tiyak na makukulong si Pope Francis kung magiging batas ang SOGIE.

Bakit?

Dahil masidhi ang kampanya nito laban sa pagpasok ng mga bading sa seminaryo para maiwasan ang matinding pedopilya sa simbahan.

Ang pagsasamantala ng mga pedophile na mga pari, obispo at kardinal ang nagbunsod ng pagsasabi ni Pope Francis na sa simula pa lang ng pag-aplay isang tao para maging seminarista o pari, kung magpakita ito ng kabaklaan, harangin na agad ito.

Kung latent o madidiskubre naman ito habang nag-aaral na, dapat din itong sibakin.

Lahat ng maging pari dapat ay tunay na lalaki umano at upang hindi salakayin ng mga pedophile ang mga mananampalataya at mismong mga seminarista, pari, obispo at kardinal.

Kung hinarang o sinibak ang isang beking Pinoy na gustong magpari, pupwede siyang magdemanda

MGA SALA NI POPE FRANCIS

Heto ang posibleng labag ng Pope Francis sa batas.

Section 5, paragraph (c) ang nagsasabing "Refuse admission or expel a person from any educational or training 24 institution on the basis of SOGIE..."

May multa rito na P250,000 hanggang



POPE FRANCIS, SEN. SOTTO' KULONG SA SOGIE LAW

P500,000 at may kulong na 6 taon hanggang 12 taon.

Pwede ring idemanda si Pope Francis ng paglabag sa Section 5, par. (a) na nagsasabing bawal ang paglalarawan na masama o stigma ang mga nasa LGBTQ sa media, educational textbooks at iba pang medium.

May multang nagkahalaga ng P100,000 hanggang P250,000 at may pagkakulong na 1 taon hanggang 6 taon sa paglabag dito.

Pwera pa ang community service na pupwedeng igawad ng korte gaya ng pagdalo sa seminar para sa human rights at hiwalay na paghingi ng mga LGBTQ ng danyos.

Eh kung pupunta si Pope Francis sa Pinas at sasabihin nito ang pagkontra sa mga bading na maging pari at gagamitin ang istorya ng Sodom and Gomorrah sa Biblia laban sa mga beki, may kalalagan siya.

Paano ang mga pari at teacher sa Catholic schools na kailangang sumunod sa kautusan ni Papa Kiko, madedemanda rin sila, makukulong at magmumulta.

BUMALIGTAD

Heto naman ang isang pupwedeng pag-isipan.

Halimbawang naging batas na nga ang SOGIE.

At nagkataong nakapagsalita sa media o sa labas ng Senado si Sen. Tito Sotto laban sa isang beki na sabihin nating isang transwoman o transgender.

Halimbawang naging guilty si Sen. Sotto at pinakulong siya sa Bilibid saka pinagmulta.

Eh pagkatapos ng kaso, biglang bumalik sa pagkalalaki si transwoman o transgender at nag-asawa ng babae.

Anong nangyari kay Sen. Sotto?

Mananatili ba siyang bilanggo at aasa na lang sa Good Conduct Time Allowance para makalabas sa kulungan nang mas maaga kaysa sen-

tensya niya?

Tama bang sabihin ng kalaban niya sa kaso na "The law may be harsh but it is still a law."

Hindi kaya kawawa sina Pope Francis at Sen. Sotto rito?

PAG-ARALAN NANG HUSTO

Sa ibang salita, mga Bro, dapat talagang pag-aralan nang husto ang panukalang SOGIE.

Kung nakabubuti ba ito sa buong bayan o higit na nakararami.

Kung hindi lilikha ito ng mga kalituhan at pagmumulan ng mga kaguluhan o hindi.

Dahil ginagawa ng SOGIE na kriminal na gawain ang hindi maki-kipagkasundo sa mga LGBTQ.

'Yun bang === makukulong ka at magmumulata nang mahal.

At magaganap ito kahit na babaligtad pa ang beki mula sa pagkabeki patungo sa tunay na lalaki.

Ang nasasagap ng ating Uzi, mas gusto ng mga beki ang mag-CR sa CR ng tunay na mga lalaki at wala namang problema ang mga tomboy.

Ang problema lang, sabi ng ating Uzi, ay ang mga may dalawang buhay na ari (sa lalaki at babae) at ang mga lalaking nagpapaputol at nagpapabiyak para maging babae.

Ang mga tinatawag na queer at iba pa, kailangan pang ipaliwanag nang husto.

Ang maganda sigurong gawin ay mag-isip ng batas na may malawak ang takda sa diskriminasyon at hindi matatali sa isang sektor lamang ng lipunan.

'Yun bang === anti-discrimination law na pupwedeng makulong kahit sino pang Poncio Pilato kung labag dito.

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