

DATE : 10-01-19

DAY : Tuesday

# **DENR**

## **IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service

## BTSI affirms compliance with DENR

## effluent standards

**A** RECENT water sampling conducted jointly by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Boracay Tubi System Inc. (BTSI) at an interceptor and outfall of the water firm in Sitio Lugutan on Boracay Island show compliance with effluent standards.

This, as BTSI, which has been operating on Boracay Island for 20 years, maintained that it is strictly observing environmental standards. The firm suspects illegal tapping in its sewer line in Barangay Manoc-Manoc and is investigating the matter.

The interceptor and outfall of BTSI was reportedly discharging wastewater that tested positive for fecal coliform, prompting the DENR to issue a cease-and-desist order on the firm on September 21.

The interim CDO, issued by EMB Western Visayas Regional Director Atty. Ramar Niel V. Pascua, directed BTSI to "cease, desist or refrain from discharging wastewater outside the company premises through a 1-kilometer outfall pipe from Lugutan area in Barangay Manoc-Manoc, Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan, going to Sibuyan Sea."

According to BTSI, since it was informed of a video showing yellowish liquid flowing out of its submerged pipe 1 kilometer away from

the island's shoreline, the company immediately coordinated with the local DENR-Environmental Management Bureau.

"In less than 48 hours, BTSI conducted joint sampling with the DENR-EMB at both its interceptor and outfall which showed compliance to effluent standards," the company said.

Results of wastewater in its interceptor and outfall in terms of total coliform is less than 1 MPN/100 mL, while fecal coliform is less than 1 MPN/100 mL.

For total coliform, the DENR-2016-08 Effluent Standard for Class SC is 10,000 MPN/100 mL, while for fecal coliform the effluent standard is 400 MPN/100 mL.

"We take this incident seriously and wish to reassure the public that there is no direct discharging of untreated wastewater into the open sea. All wastewater is being treated on-site at the individual Sewage Treatment Plants [STP] of establishments it serves," BTSI explained.

### Water conservation

TO conserve water, BTSI encourages recycling of treated wastewater for irrigation and flushing purposes and any excess goes to its interceptor as a safeguard.

"The individual STPs and interceptor are constantly monitored in-

house, by the DENR-EMB, and by third-party laboratory testing firms for compliance to the latest DENR standards. In fact, BTSI is one of the very few providers in the Philippines

and the first provider in Boracay Island to comply with the stringent DENR 2016-08 Effluent Standards for treated wastewater discharge," it stressed. *Jonathan L. Mayuga*



# Pharma company AstraZeneca puts focus on environmental protection



**GO GREEN** The committee of AstraZeneca during the memorandum of agreement with Department of Natural Resources (DENR).

Biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca is strengthening its commitment to sustainability by focusing on three pillars of its strategy—patients, people, and the planet. Their sustainability journey is about reducing the negative effects and having a positive impact on the patients, the society, and the environment.

“At AstraZeneca, our approach to sustainability puts health at the heart

of our work. Sustainability means using our capabilities to make the most meaningful impact where society needs it—health. We believe there is a strong connection between the health of our patients, people and the planet, and each of these impacts one another,” said **Lotis Ramin**, AstraZeneca Philippines country president.

With this objective, the company entered into a three-year tripartite with

the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Municipality of Cavinti, Laguna to support the ‘*Tayo ang Kalikasan*’ reforestation management program. “Taking care of the environment is a monumental undertaking that requires the participation of everyone. So, we’re very happy that AstraZeneca is doing its part for this effort,” said **Vener Garcia**, OIC chief, Policy Studies Division, DENR.



# PCC clears P62-B Pasay reclamation project

## Udenna, China firm form joint venture with Pasay LGU

By LOUELLA DESIDERIO

The Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) has given its approval to the joint venture between the group composed of Udenna Development Corp., Ulticon Builders Inc. and China Harbour Engineering Co. and the Pasay City government for a P62-billion land reclamation project covering 265 hectares within the city.

In a commission decision dated Sept. 26, PCC said its review showed the proposed transaction between Pasay Harbor City Corp. and the city government is unlikely to lead to less competition in the market.

"This is because the transition will create a new market for commercial and residential real estate within the

city of Pasay," the PCC said.

It is unclear if the project will need clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Environment groups are opposing further land reclamation in Manila Bay.

Under the proposed joint venture, the parties will engage in the

P62-billion land reclamation project to develop a part of Manila Bay within Pasay City.

Pasay Harbor City Corp. submitted an unsolicited proposal for the project.

An agreement for the joint venture was signed in November 2017 after no offers were made by other firms to challenge Pasay Harbor City Corp.'s proposal.

Under the joint venture, the city government of Pasay will contribute the rights to reclaim in its municipal waters.

Pasay Harbor City Corp., meanwhile, will be responsible for financing all raw land reclamation works

and expenses.

The project is expected to be completed within four years from issuance of notice to proceed.

Udenna Development Corp. is led by Davao-based businessman Dennis Uy, whose other companies include Phoenix Petroleum Holdings Inc., Chelsea Logistics Holding Corp. and Udenna Management and Resources Corp.

Ulticon Builders, meanwhile, is primarily engaged in general construction.

Established in 2005 and based in Beijing, China Harbour Engineering Co. is involved in heavy construction projects.

This joint venture is the first transaction involving a local government unit to be reviewed by the PCC.

PCC, the country's anti-trust body, reviews mergers and acquisitions to ensure such would not go against the promotion of consumer

interest.

So far, PCC has approved 184 of the 196 merger transactions received from local and international companies, and blocked one anti-competitive deal.

These transactions have a combined transaction value of P3.21 trillion.



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### **PCC approves JV for reclamation project in Pasay**

The Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) has approved the joint venture between Pasay Harbor City Corporation (Pasay Harbor City) and the City Government of Pasay for the rise of a 265-hectare land reclamation project in Pasay City. The Pasay City local government unit allotted rights to reclaim its municipal waters, while Pasay Harbor City will fully finance all raw land reclamation works and expenses. This transaction marks the first merger review by PCC involving an LGU as a party to the joint venture. In a Commission Decision issued on September 26, PCC's merger review found that the transaction is not likely to lead to substantial lessening of competition in the relevant market. PCC noted that the reclaimed area will create a new market for commercial and residential real estate in Pasay City. Pasay Harbor City Corporation is a partnership composed of Udenna Development Corp. (UDEVCO), Ulticon Builders, Inc. and China Harbour Engineering Company. It submitted its venture as an unsolicited proposal to develop a part of Manila Bay within Pasay City's domain. (BCM)



# PRA flagged on illegally reclaimed lands

By Rio N. Araja

**T**HE Commission on Audit has called the attention of the Philippine Reclamation Authority for spending on 344 “illegally” reclaimed lands without any financial gain to the government.

State auditors said the illegal reclaimers were the ones who financially benefited.

Government incurred expenditures for travel expenses for monitoring activities on the illegally reclaimed lands, including 292 lands with complete reclamation and with pending applications for titling, 52 lands with cease-and-desist orders and 26 detected unauthorized reclamations.

“The illegal reclaimers, however, seem to enjoy all the economic benefits

associated with the use and ownership of reclaimed land from the period of reclamation,” COA’s report read.

The commission took a swipe at PRA for the delayed completion in the legalization process and forfeiture of illegal reclaimed lands.

“The illegal acts committed of reclaiming shorelands without permit from the national government cannot be undone, hence the immediate forfeiture of such property, and subsequent titling thereof in favor of the government ap-

pears to be the logical solution which rests with the PRA, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Office of the President,” COA noted.

It told PRA to end business operations in the disputed reclaimed lands, expedite the submission of required dossiers to DENR for land titling and coordinate with the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel.

“Also, PRA requested from DENR for the conduct of a joint policy review on the various tenurial instruments and department orders of DENR vis-à-vis rules and regulations on reclamation,” it said.

In a related development, the COA said it wants the sale of a 3.6-hectare “illegally” reclaimed land in Looc, Mandaue City, Cebu voided.

State auditors told the PRA to hold the

city government culpable for the questionable sale of the 35,821-square meter shoreland property in Barangay Looc for only P1.8 million in 2015.

On Sept. 18, 2015, the Mandaue City government sold the reclaimed area to a private real estate firm—the E.C. Ouano Development and Management Corp. (Ecodemcor)—for just P50 per square meter.

Based on the audit report, there was no record that the property had been appraised and classified as alienable and disposable before it was sold.

“The city government of Mandaue or any private entity has no authority to reclaim and to sell the reclaimed land located in Barangay Looc, Mandaue City, Cebu. PRA has not regulated nor authorized the reclamation as it is yet to conduct inspection,” the report read.



# PCC clears Pasay reclamation

By Othel V. Campos

**T**he Philippine Competition Commission said Monday it approved the joint venture between Pasay Harbor City Corp. and the city government of Pasay on the 265-hectare land reclamation project in Pasay City.

Under the deal, the Pasay City government allocated rights to reclaim its municipal waters while Pasay Harbor City will fully finance all raw land reclamation works and expenses.

The transaction marked the first merger review by the commission in-

volving a local government unit as a party to the joint venture.

Pasay Harbor City is a partnership composed of Udenna Development Corp. of businessman Dennis Uy, Ulticon Builders Inc. and China Harbour Engineering Company.

Pasay Harbor City submitted an unsolicited proposal to develop a part of Manila Bay within Pasay City's domain.

PCC said in a decision on Sept. 26 that the transaction would not likely lead to a substantial lessening of competition in the relevant market.

It said that a new market for commercial and residential real estate in Pasay City would rise in the reclaimed area.

Pasay Harbor City and the Sangguni-

ang Panlungsod ng Pasay signed a joint venture agreement on the reclamation project as early as November 2017.

The project is expected to cost P62 billion once it is completed within four years from the date of approval.

PCC, the country's anti-trust body, is mandated under the Philippine Competition Act to review mergers and acquisitions to ensure that these deals will not harm the interest of consumers.

It received 196 merger transactions by local and international companies, approved 184 of them and blocked 1 anti-competitive merger with overall value of P3.21 trillion.

Aside from PCC's clearance, the reclamation project needs the approval of the Philippine Reclamation Authority and the National Economic and Development Authority.



A VIEW of the Pasay City coast of Manila Bay and the Cavite coastal road tollway. The Pasay local government unit has allotted rights to reclaim the waters under its jurisdiction, while the consortium will shoulder the costs including raw land reclamation works and expenses.

# PCC greenlights Dennis Uy's P62-B reclamation project

By Angelica Ballesteros

The consortium led by tycoon Dennis Uy has moved one step closer to undertaking its P62-billion reclamation project in Pasay City.

The Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) has approved the joint venture between Pasay Harbor City Corp. and the Pasay City government for the 265-hectare land reclamation project.

The subject area is located beside the SM Group's 300-hectare reclamation project.

Before it could fully proceed, however, the consortium would still need to obtain the approval of the National Economic and Development Authority and the endorsement of the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA).

Based on the terms of agreement, the Pasay Harbor City consortium will shoulder the entire cost of the project, which will be completed

within four years upon the issuance of the notice to proceed.

"In a Commission Decision issued on 26 September, PCC's merger review found that the transaction is not likely to lead to substantial lessening of competition in the relevant market. PCC noted that the reclaimed area will create a new market for commercial and residential real estate in Pasay City," the competition watchdog said in a statement.

Under the agreement, the Pasay local government unit has allotted rights to reclaim the waters under its jurisdiction, while the consortium will shoulder the costs including raw land reclamation works and expenses.

Pasay Harbor Corp. is comprised of Dennis Uy-led Udenna Development Corp., Ulticon Builders Inc. and China Harbour Engineering

Co. The consortium submitted an unsolicited proposal for the development.

It was also among the reclamation projects in the Manila Bay area signed through a memorandum of agreement in November last year between companies and the Pasay and Manila LGU.

The other projects were Manila Goldcoast Development Corp. and the Manila local government's 148-hectare Solar City project, and SM Prime Holdings and the Pasay LGU's 300-hectare and 60-hectare project dubbed the "SM Project," whose notice to proceed was recently confirmed given by the PRA.

To date, the PCC said it has received 196 merger transactions and by local and international companies. Of the figure, it has approved 184 and blocked one anti-competitive merger. The total transactions have a combined value of P3.21 trillion.

With AJ Bajo





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## PCC approves Pasay JV with Dennis Uy-led group

THE Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) green-lit a joint venture (JV) between the City Government of Pasay and a group led by Davao-based businessman Dennis A. Uy that will pave the way for a 265-hectare Manila Bay land reclamation project in Pasay City.

In a Commission Decision dated Sept. 26, the PCC found the deal between Pasay Harbor City Corp. and the Pasay City government will not likely lead to substantial decrease of competition in the relevant market.

"The reclaimed area will create a new market for commercial and residential real estate in Pasay City," PCC said.

Under the deal, the City Government of Pasay allotted rights to reclaim its municipal waters in its section of Manila Bay. In turn, Pasay Harbor City will finance all raw land reclamation works.

Pasay Harbor City is a consortium composed of Udenna Development Corp., Ulticon Builders, Inc., and China Harbour Engineering Co. Udenna is the holding company for Mr. Uy's businesses, which

include Phoenix Petroleum Philippines, Inc., Chelsea Logistics and Infrastructure Holdings Corp., Enderun Colleges and Telecommunity Corp.

The Pasay City government and the consortium signed a joint venture agreement for the P62-billion project in November 2017.

The joint venture is PCC's first merger review that involves a local government unit.

PCC, the country's anti-trust body, reviews mergers and acquisitions under the Philippine Competition Act of 2015. — **Jenina P. Ibañez**



## FROM THE STANDS

DOMINI M. TORREVILLAS

### Saving Manila Bay



**D**uring my brief visits in Manila (having taken up residence in Gingoog City, Mis. Or. for sometime now), I saw the amazing transformation of the filthy Manila Bay shoreline into something clean and trash-free, its water seemingly swimmable and fresh-looking. The government and private efforts to clean up the once eulogized bay as having the most beautiful sunset, have indeed yielded healthy results.

The rehabilitation work continues. Rehabilitating Manila Bay has been, and continues to be, according to Manila Yacht Club (MYC) Commodore Robert Lim Joseph, a formidable task. To date, Joseph said, the waste collectors have amassed 27,000 tons of garbage. "They will collect around 30,000 tons more from October to December," said Joseph. "This is 60 years of accumulated waste."

There is a big kink that needs to be ironed out to make the bay truly the bay of dreams.

That is lack of enthusiastic cooperation. Joseph and Buhay Party-list Rep. Lito Atienza are urging the two water concessionaires – Maynilad and Manila Water – to do their part in rehabilitating Manila Bay by complying with Republic Act 9275 or the Clean Water Act of 2004.

The bay's rehabilitation kicked off last January, after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) accepted the challenge to rehabilitate and restore the bay's coastal and marine ecosystems.

"Since we raised this issue with the help of media from Nov. 17 to Dec. 14 last year, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu reacted that he would take up the challenge," said Commodore Joseph during the Save Manila Bay project lunch-conference two months earlier, on Sept. 6, at the MYC.

Atienza and Joseph discussed strategies and issues on the project during the conference. They claimed the water concessionaires should address the problem by providing sewage facilities.

"DENR cannot solve this issue without the water companies speeding up the construction of the sewage treatment plant," said Joseph.

"We need to divert all the sewage going into the bay," Atienza explained. "Otherwise, there's no way we can save Manila Bay."

According to Atienza the sewage from establishments and residences on the boulevard must be diverted to the sewerage treatment plant. He explained the water concessionaires collect an environmental fee from the consumers.

"Every month, when you pay your water bill, 20 percent of that is supposedly for the cleaning of our wastewater."

If this was done, then the water going to Manila Bay should have been clear water and without stench.

"They've been collecting what they used to call sewage fee – now environmental fee, since 1997. It's been 22 years!" Atienza exclaimed.

Joseph said Atienza, former DENR secretary, made a call to the two water concessionaires to comply with the Clean Water Act. Last month, the Supreme Court (SC) held the water firms accountable and fined them almost P1 billion each. The SC's ruling imposed a daily fine of P322,102 until they comply with the ruling.

The efforts of Manila Yacht Club, Bobby Joseph, the environmentalists, the DENR, and Secretary Cimatu will go nowhere unless the two water companies do their part and expedite the provision of sewerage services for its customers, said Atienza.

Joseph emphasized that the Save Manila Bay project is not only about water. "It's about our culture, our history, even our fisherfolk too. In our history, we have had a lot of battles here."

Atienza also recalled that Manila Bay used to pride itself as the most beautiful bay in the world. "The architect of Manila was Daniel Burnham, an American architect who designed Chicago and Washington. The US government commissioned him to come here and design the development of Manila Bay and the city of Manila. When Daniel Burnham saw the shoreline of Manila Bay, with white sand and clear water, he said: 'I have just witnessed the most beautiful shoreline in the world!'"

"What have we done?" Atienza turned emotional. "We destroyed it! People don't know how to take care of their economic gain. The good thing now is that people are doing something about it."

Two outstanding Filipino short films were honored last Sunday at the third annual Viddsee Juree Awards Philippines, an annual industry pick award celebrating best short films from the Philippines.

"Santa Nena!" won the gold award for its creator, Tim Rone Villanueva. The film is a satire about a patron saint statue that springs to life, and is commanded by God to bear the Messiah with Manuel, a heart-broken boy. The film, made while Tim was a student at De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, received numerous accolades, including honorable mention for Best Students' short film at the California International Film Festival X Davis Chinese Film Festival, 20-18, and Best Short Film (Student Category) at the CineFilipino Film Festival the same year.

Tim said, "In making this film, I wanted to tell the story of my hometown in Kawit, about God, religion and faith. Santa Nena! is about human desires, and how it leads to chaos and how it has its own cunning ways to know our weakest spots."

The jury cited "Santa Nena!" as a socio-religious satire that "hits us with the power of a freight train controlled by John Waters. With a kaleidoscopic and very biting point of view, (it) hits all the right marks in spoofing telenovelas and religiosity with the hormone-fueled zaniness of teen sex comedies to paint a hilarious, at times cringe-worthy, provocative take on cultural constraints."

The silver award went to Phyllis Grae Grande's "If Not (Kun 'Di Man)", a film revolving around two blind street singers whose partnership goes beyond music.

Lynn Anna Maria Lim received a special mention for "The Sound of Silence," a drama about a sex slave who tries to escape her captor. The story was inspired by historical heroines Gabriela Silang, Melchora Aquino and Josefa Llanes Escoda.

An Audience Choice Award went to "The Pieces of Gone Dreams" by Cyrus Kim Balasabas following a public voting period from Sept. 2-12.

The winners were picked from among ten films submitted to the Viddsee Juree Awards Philippines. The jury consisted of Anderson Le, artistic director for the Hawaii International Film Festival; Baby Ruth Villarama, established Filipino producer and film director, and Lucky Kuswandi, one of Indonesia's most exciting young directors.

Villanueva received a film production grant worth P160,000, and Grande, P80,000. Both received a glittering array of prizes.

Luigene Yanoria, Viddsee' community manager says, "This year's entries showcase what Filipino filmmakers are capable of in making films that resonate with audiences in new and surprising ways. It was encouraging to see a diverse range of filmmakers – many of them who are still new to the industry – approach their subjects with a deep sense of care, maturity, and attention to craft."

Viddsee Juree Awards ('Juree') is an annual industry pick award celebrating best short films from Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines. In each edition, the countries' brightest talents and storytellers submit their films to a panel of international judges who will then handpick the winning entries.

Viddsee is also a leading video entertainment platform for short premium content. With over 1 billion views powered by data insights and a trusted community, storytellers are empowered by enabling the creation of films and amplifying stories to targeted audiences.

The annual Juree Awards initiative debuted in Indonesia in 2016, and expanded to include the Philippines in 2017, and Singapore in 2018.

The public can watch all nominated and other out-of-competition films for free on <https://www.viddsee.com/channelljuree/philippines2019>

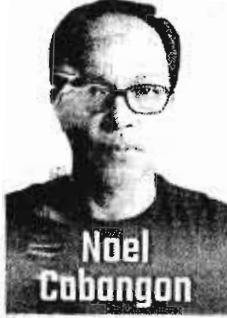


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## DITO SA KANTO



NOEL CABANGON  
TWITTER: @noelcabangon

**T**ama lang naman na sabihin ni President Duterte

na uncleanable ang Pasig River. Ibig sabihin, wala nang pag-asa pang maayos muli at 'di na dapat pag-aksayahan ng pera at panahon. Nagiging consistent lang siya sa kanyang pananaw.

Tulad ng mga adik, na wala na silang pag-asa at dapat sa kanila ay nawawala na sa lipunan. 'Di na sila umano mga tao. Kung kaya naman karamihan sa mga ito'y na-EJK na Talagang nawala na sa

lansangan. Kaya ang Pasig River ay 'di na malilinis. In short, wala nang pag-asa.

Nakakawala lang talaga ng gana ang mga ganitong statement, lalo na galing pa sa Presidente ng Pilipinas.

Binitawan ang mga salitang iyon at walang ibinigay na aksyon kung ano ang dapat gawin. Kaya, gusto kong ibalik sa kanya ang tanong. "Kung gayon po, Mr. President, ano na pong

gagawin natin? Tapunan na lang natin nang tapunan? Tatal wala nang pag-asa?"

Nais ko rin tuloy isipin na kaya ganyan ang inyong pananaw ay dahil wala kayong personal attachment sa makasaysayan na ilog na 'yan. Tapos sasabihin niyo pa na naliligo kayo sa ilog kung kailangan niyo ng bacteria sa katawan.

Siguro nga joke lang to. Tulad din ng iba ninyong mga state-

ment, joke lang. Susog din ni Sec. Panlo.

Bilang isang artista na may pagpapahalaga sa kalikasan at hinirang na isa sa mga ambassador ng rehabilitasyon ng Ilog Pasig ng PRRC DENR at NCCA, tinanggap ko ang anyayang ito dahil naniniwala ako, tulad ng mga mayor ng nasasakupan ng kabataan ng ilog, na may pag-asa pang mabuhay muli ang ilog.

(Sundan sa pahina 9)

## May pag-asa...

(Mula sa pahina 4)

Malayo na ang narating ng mga paghihirap ng mga taong kumikilos para sa pagpapanumbalik ng buhay nito. Kung kaya ginawaran ng pagkilala ang ilog sa 21st International River Symposium, na ginawa sa Australia, bilang first 2018 Asia River Prize, at tinalo ang Yangtze River ng China.

Kung may ganitong pagkilala, wala ba talagang pag-asa ang ilog? Tulad ng mga buhay na 'di nabigyan ng pagkakataon na ma-rehabilitate?

Ang pag-asa ay laing kakambal natin sa buhay. Ang mga mahihirap ay 'di nawawalan nito, na sila ay maka-kaahon din sa kanilang kinalalagyan. Na ang ating bayan ay maka-kaahon din sa kinalalagyan at aangat ang ekonomiya at makakapagbigay ng kabuhayan sa mga tao.

Na tayo ay naniniwala sa ating resiliency at ito ang kinakapitan natin para patuloy na magkaroon ng pag-asa sa bawat pagsubok at paghamon.

Siguro nga magka-kaiba lang tayo ng pananaw. At bilang isang ambassador ng Ilog Pasig, naniniwala ako na uusbong ang buhay sa makasaysayang ilog.



## EDITORIAL

# Protecting the environment

MAJORITY of Filipinos, including the ordinary citizens, are shocked by the continued destruction of the environment and the country's remaining natural resources, particularly forests.

But it is heartening to note that there's now a move in Congress to come up with a piece of legislation designed to ensure the strict enforcement of environmental laws, rules and regulations.

In the House of Representatives, the majority and minority blocs support the creation of an enforcement bureau in the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

brainchild of DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, a former chief of staff of the powerful Armed Forces of the Philippines, the proposed bureau is seen to effectively implement environmental laws.

He made the statement a few days after Bienvenido Veguilla Jr., a DENR forest ranger, was brutally killed by suspected illegal loggers operating in El Nido, Palawan.

With its own enforcement bureau, Cimatu said the DENR could protect its officials and employees, who have been the vicious targets of illegal loggers and other environmental criminals.

He expressed hope the department will be granted P3.036 billion additional funding to bankroll three crucial programs in 2020, including the creation of the proposed enforcement bureau.

The general-turned-Cabinet secretary is hopeful the budget augmentation will be included in the final version of the 2020 General Appropriations Bill to be passed by the two-chamber Congress.

"We are hoping that the DENR would get the same extent of support from the senators just like their counterparts in the House when they meet at the bicameral conference committee," he said.

In the view of many, Cimatu and the rest of the DENR personnel need the proposed enforcement bureau to be able to fully implement the country's environmental laws, rules and regulations.



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**GARBAGE HAUL.** Miss Earth 2019 candidates on Monday join the team from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority in hauling garbage along the shore of Baywalk area on Roxas Boulevard in Manila. With gloves and thongs, 13 candidates immerse themselves in the environmental activity with members of the Metro Parkway Clearing Group as a way to save the environment. **Norman Cruz**



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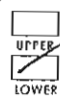


STAYING true to their advocacy, Ms. Earth candidates help the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority in cleaning up a portion of the Manila Bay breakwater on Monday.

BOB DUNGO JR.



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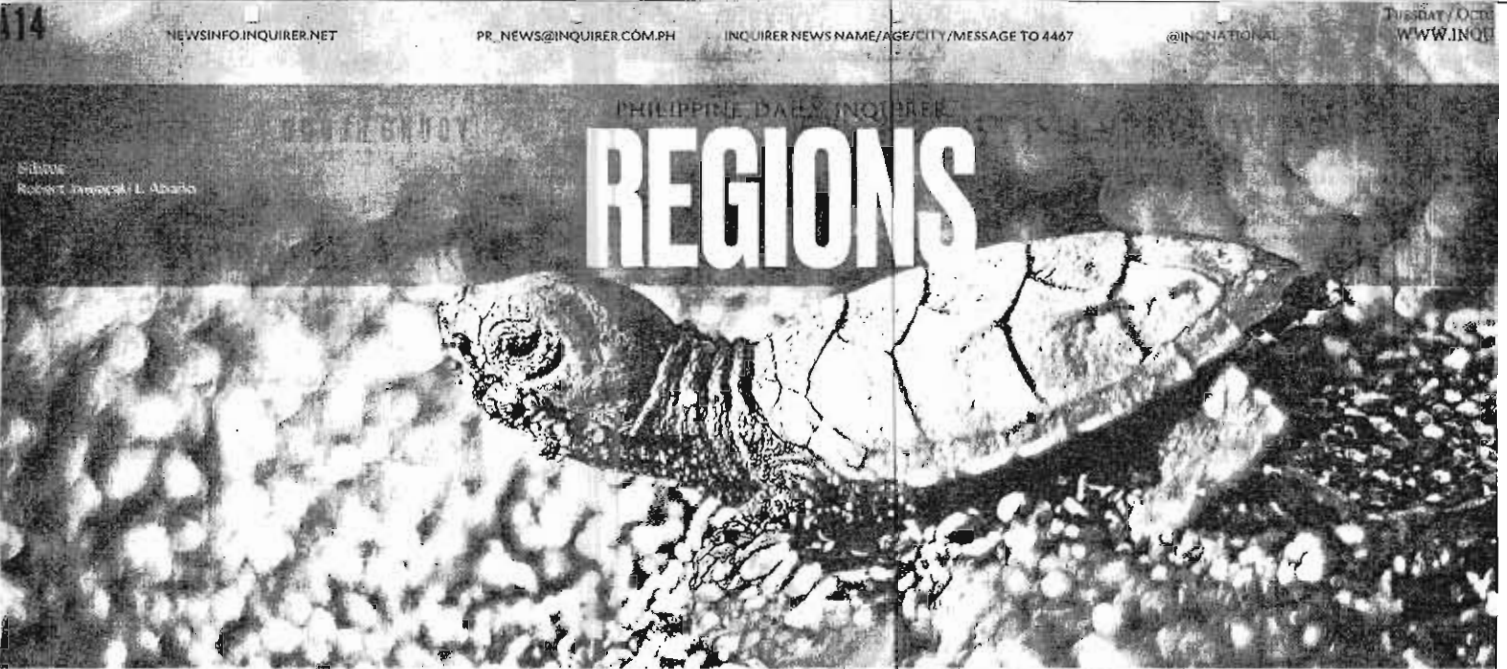
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**NAGTULONG-TULONG** ang mga kandidata ng Miss Earth 2019, kasama ang mga tauhan ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), sa paghahakot ng mga basura sa isang bahagi ng Manila Bay malapit sa US Embassy sa Roxas Blvd., Manila kahapon.

Kuha ni **NORMAN ARAGA**



**SURVIVOR** One of 50 hawksbill turtles that hatched at the village of Candiis in Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental, in August crawls toward the sea. Sixty-five other turtle eggs were spoiled after reaching nesting sites in the coastal community. —ERWIN MASCARIÑAS

**PRESERVING MISAMIS' MARINE RESOURCES**

# RIISING TIDE SPELLS DOOM FOR SEA TURTLES

By Erwin Mascariñas  
@InqNational

### Cause for concern

Virgilio Alemana Jr., coastal management chief of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) in Gingoog City, said his team had been monitoring an increase in the number of spoiled turtle eggs since 2018 because their nesting places had been flooded by the tides.

Alemana said this explained the decrease in the number of live turtle hatchlings.

He said that while population of adult sea turtles nesting along Misamis Oriental's coasts was stable, the decrease in hatchlings was a cause for concern.

In August, an entire sea turtle nesting site in Salay town was flooded by the tide, spoiling all eggs that were supposed to hatch in September, he said.

In another site in Salay, 57 hatchlings were released recently. But the number was less than half of the expected hatchlings to be released as the rest of the eggs were spoiled by rising sea water, Alemana said.

Conservationists have also recorded a decline in the number of sea turtle eggs hatched in

Magsaysay since 2012.

At least 630 hatchlings, from six nesting sites at Candiis village, were released in 2017. Pagara, however, said that by 2018, the number of hatchlings released in the town went down to 580.

Pagara said they were expecting that fewer hatchlings would be released this year.

He said only 50 hatchlings, out of 115 eggs, were produced in one nesting site in August.

In July, only five hatchlings were produced out of 120 eggs. In another nest, only 40 hatchlings, out of 153 eggs, were released into the sea.

### Promising

Alemana said sea turtles carried with them an imprint of the beach where they were hatched, hence had the unique ability to return to the same site to nest, repeating what could be an ancient ritual for their species.

But Alemana's team and local conservationists are intervening to protect the turtle eggs from the tides by transferring these to an area safe from the waves but just near where these were nested.

Initial results proved promising.

Last July, the Cenro released into the wild 150 hatchlings produced from 165 eggs nested in the coasts of Duka Bay.

"We have a higher survival rate of eggs reaching the stage of hatching when we transfer them," Alemana said.

The challenge is to monitor all nesting sites along the province's coastline.

A 2013 study by Fra-And Timothy Quimpo of sea turtles in Macajalar and Gingoog bays recorded four species nesting in the coasts of 11 towns.

The hawksbill and the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) are the most common species. The olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) are also found in the province.

The hawksbill turtle predominantly nests in the coasts of five towns year-round, peaking during the first three months of the year. INQ

**BUTUAN CITY**—Rolando Pagara feels sad every time he recalls the hundreds of hawksbill turtle hatchlings that have not made it to the sea in his hometown of Magsaysay in Misamis Oriental province.

A councilman at Barangay Candiis, Magsaysay, Pagara has been involved in turtle conservation in the last 20 years, an effort that was boosted by the declaration of some 612 hectares of the town's coastal area as critical habitat for hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

Today, sea turtles nesting in his hometown have to surmount an environmental hurdle to ensure the species' survival.

Environment officials and conservationists are blaming rising tides associated with the changing climate for the destruction of nesting sites of the endangered hawksbill turtles in Misamis Oriental.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
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SERVICE



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ERWIN MASCARIÑAS

**CONSERVATION** Rolando Pagara, one of the leaders of the “pawikan” (sea turtle) conservation program in Magsaysay town, makes sure that sea turtles hatched in his village of Candiis are protected until they are ready to be released into the wild.



ERWIN MASCARIÑAS

**CONSERVATION** Rolando Pagara, one of the leaders of the “pawikan” (sea turtle) conservation program in Magsaysay town, makes sure that sea turtles hatched in his village of Candiis are protected until they are ready to be released into the wild.



## The MWSS Kaliwa Dam project

On Sept. 7, 2019 your newspaper published an article by Mr. Alex Magno about the dismissive attitude of MWSS on the procedural issues raised by the Commission on Audit on the bidding for the New Centennial Water Source- Kaliwa Dam Project (KDP).

Firstly, we would like to thank Mr. Magno for his well-written article which exactly echoed MWSS sentiment that we need the KDP as our survival is at risk. He correctly emphasized that further delays in the implementation of the project will expose the 15 million residents of Metro Manila, Rizal and Cavite to long bouts of severe water shortages if the project is not implemented soon.

Secondly, we would like to put into context Mr. Magno's impression that MWSS provoked and was irresponsible in addressing the issues raised by the Commission on Audit (COA) on the vetting done on the Chinese three bidders eligibility under RA 9184.

In response to the COA audit observation received by the MWSS on 10 June, the MWSS has replied two times dated 18 June and 22 July 2019 to clarify all the issues raised by COA.

The MWSS Technical Working Group (TWG) who vetted the three Chinese contractors was circumspect

when they recommended the results of their evaluation which was in accordance with Par. 2 of Note Verbale 17-1049 and the Clarificatory Procedures for the Implementation of the Note Verbale 17-1049 (hereinafter, the Clarificatory Procedures).

The prudent manner with which the TWG performed its duties is clearly exemplified when the TWG raised concerns on the capacity and qualification of the three shortlisted Chinese contractors during the meeting with the Department of Finance (DOF) on 25 October 2017. MWSS even formally wrote to the DOF on this matter in its letter dated 09 October 2017, in full compliance with the Clarificatory Procedures.

More importantly, and by way of further establishing the commitment of MWSS to comply with Note Verbale 17-1049 and with the Clarificatory Procedures, and uphold the competitive

nature of the selection process, MWSS even requested in the said 09 October 2017 letter the DOF to convey to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce that the short-listed Chinese Contractors be directed "to submit more documents to demonstrate their ability x x x to meet the project requirements" and to encourage more competition "by nominating at least 2 additional firms to be vetted by MWSS as the Implementing Agency x x x".

The above-cited recommendations/ requests of MWSS were subsequently conveyed by the DOF to the Chinese Government, as evidenced by the letter of the DOF dated 19 October 2017.

In its letter to MWSS dated 30 October 2017, the DOF confirmed that the recommendations/ requests of MWSS were conveyed to the Chinese Government. In addition, the DOF also stated that, pending the feedback from the Chinese

embassy, it would highly appreciate if MWSS can initiate its internal process of finalizing the required bidding documents for the Project."

The DBM in its confirmatory opinion on the procurement procedures and arrangements for China ODA Loan Financing, confirmed that a "hybrid approach" in the procurement of contractors may be used in the Chinese ODA loan financing as long as it complies with Section 4 of the Republic Act (RA) No. 9184 or the Government Procurement Law. Section 4 of RA No. 9184 provides that foreign bidders may be eligible to participate in the procurement of Infrastructure Projects when provided for under any Treaty or International or Executive Agreement.

We would like to assure that the bidding done and the award of the contract was above board as MWSS acted within the procedural bounds under pertinent laws, statutes and issuances of the National Government.

The MWSS requests you to publish this letter to correct the misrepresentations on the issue of the vetting process that clouds the implementation of the Kaliwa Dam Project. - Lt.Gen. EMMANUEL B. SALAMAT (Ret), MWSS Administrator



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**ALEX MAGNO**

## Trash

The country won the world's admiration when we asked Canada to take back the trash it exported to us. Then we banned altogether the importation of refuse. We will not be the dumpsite for other countries.

Soon many other countries followed suit. The rich nations lost the convenience of simply shipping out their industrial wastes to poorer countries that were willing to accept the great ecological costs for accepting trash. Now that seems to be a most ignoble way to eke out a few dollars for taking garbage.

But there are other ways trash could be dumped on our soil.

One of these ways is to sell off obsolete technologies at dirt cheap prices to developing economies. The trash products produced by these obsolete pieces of manufacturing commitment are then sold to unsuspecting consumers.

The entire Southeast Asian region is now in arms over the entry of equipment producing steel using the obsolete induction equipment. The equipment may be had for next to nothing, but they are a curse on the environment and a plague on consumers who are sold substandard products.

Recently, the ASEAN Iron and Steel Council issued a statement of concern over the transfer of steel manufacturing plants from China to several Southeast Asian countries. These plants were energy inefficient, highly polluting and produce substandard products.

As early as 2002, China began shutting down factories using induction furnaces. There are about 600 of these plants all over China with a combined production capacity of 120 million tons.

China now has a steel production overcapacity of about 300 million tons. It makes good economic and ecological sense to shut down these plants. They contributed the dense industrial smog that besieged many Chinese cities and they victimized consumers with substandard products.

A few years ago, China declared these induction furnaces illegal. Having been banned from operating, these induction furnaces now had zero economic value.

But while China banned these antiquated furnaces, they did not ban their exportation. For this reason, the banned furnaces were sold cheaply to neighboring countries to opportunistic businessmen using old technology to supply our consumers with what Chinese authorities called "ground steel."

### San Simon

Ask the residents of San Simon, Pampanga how life has become after three antiquated induction furnaces imported from China set up shop in the town. Residents began to suffer from respiratory illnesses and tin roofs corroded because of acid rain.

The three induction furnaces in San Simon are owned and operated by Real Steel Corp., Wan Chiong Steel Corp. and Melters Steel Corp. Along with two other induction furnace mills - Metro Dragon Steel Corp. in Caloocan City and Davao Mighty Steel Corp. in Davao City - these five manufacturers have formed a lobby group called the Philippine Induction Smelting Industry Association (PISIA).

PISIA's first chairperson is former senator Nikki Coseteng. Last year, the group supported a public information campaign that actually claimed steel products produced by induction furnaces are actually superior to more modern, more economical manufacturing technologies. Numerous technical studies arrived at conclusions contrary to that claim.



In November 2017, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ordered an investigation into the five manufacturers using induction furnaces disposed from China. Last January, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) ordered the confiscation of steel bars produced by Wan Chiong Steel for being substandard. Last May, the DTI issued a public warning against the purchase of steel bars produced by Wan Chiong. It is not clear if this particular manufacturer is still in operation.

For its part, the industry group Philippine Iron and Steel Institute (PISI) sent out technical teams to purchase and test steel products coming from those plants using induction furnaces. The PISI found that steel products from Wan Chiong and Real Steel had the most violations of Philippine standards.

Because they acquired obsolete plant equipment from China that had zero economic value due to the ban on their use, unscrupulous local manufacturers can undercut existing steel plants that invested in state-of-the-art technologies. But their products are substandard and will probably create high safety risks for the general public.

This is a concern that requires close coordination between the DTI and the DENR because these obsolete plants harm both consumers and the environment.

Ideally, industries should invest in cutting edge technologies that are economical to operate and safe for the environment. The reality of obsolete plants from China being exported cheaply to the region distorts all market calculations. The obsolete plants are sold at rock bottom prices - but only because they basically junk in their country of origin.

### New technologies

If the use of induction furnaces were ideal, China would not have banned them.

The global steel industry, however, has abundant literature comparing the use of induction furnaces against the modern electric arc furnaces. On every count, induction furnaces are decisively inferior.

Electric arc furnaces use less than half the energy required by induction furnaces to produce the same quantity of products. Electric arc furnaces allow decarburization, the removal of slag and phosphorus from the steel product. Induction furnaces cannot effectively remove slag and impurity effectively, resulting in poor steel quality.

Electric arc furnaces allow precise control of the chemistry of molten metal. By contrast, 90 percent of steel products from induction furnaces in China were shown to be substandard. Too, induction furnaces have unsafe features that could result in their exploding during use - adding to the peril posed by their release of harmful gases into the atmosphere.

All over Southeast Asia, industry experts are urging a ban on the operation of obsolete steelmaking technologies.



**WASTE MANAGEMENT.** ABS-CBN Foundation declares Resorts World Manila as the country's first green integrated resort to sign up for the foundation's Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment project. Attending the signing of the agreement at the ballroom of Hilton Manila are (from left) Hotel Okura Manila-PCO chief engineer Macarthy Olaveria, Sheraton Manila Hotel general manager Anna Liza Vergara, Envirocare Management Precision Inc. president and chief executive Ariel Entico, RWM chief operating officer Stephen Reilly, ABS-CBN Foundation chief finance and services officer Angelita Lara, Holiday Inn Express general manager Elpidio Beloso and Hilton Manila-PCO engineer Austin Cabrido.



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**Green warriors.** Filipino environmental activists confirmed the findings of the recently released report of international anti-corruption watchdog Global Witness on the situation of Filipino land and environmental defenders. Holding copies of the report 'Defending the Philippines' are (from left): Rachel Cox, Global Witness; Rene Pamplona, Coverage of Initiatives for Environmental Justice; Leon Dulce, Kalikasan PNE; Daisy Pedranza, Limay Concerned Citizens Inc.; and Ben Leather, Global Witness during the press conference held in Quezon City. **Manny Palmero**



#MINDANAO

# The climate challenge and the digital opportunity

By JOHN TRIA

**A**S we enter the last quarter of 2019, thoughts come to two things beyond politics and the economy that will define the way we will view 2020 – the digital economy and the climate challenge.

### An alarming climate report and its effects on our food supply

We received a more bleak, yet more realistic climate report last week, noting how much of the polar ice caps have melted, and how the feared change due to these climate shifts are here.

In Mindanao, we may not have the same number of super-typhoons, but we have begun feeling the deep impacts on our agriculture. The weak corn harvests in 2015 caused an uptick in chicken prices, and the weak durian harvests of 2017, according to some, 2018 were precipitated by a long dry spell. The recent overproduction of mangoes tell us how climate is affecting production.

This will have a profound effect on our food supply and farm incomes, especially in ASEAN'S two largest countries that constitute half its population: Indonesia and the Philippines. Both have the archipelagic lay out and mountainous terrain make efficient consolidation of commodities costly, creating a struggle for both to meet the politically important rice self-sufficiency objective over the last 20 years.

Unlike Vietnam, which has the vast, connected plains fed by the Mekong Delta that enable the three cropping cycles of rice, and quicker, cheaper logistics to consolidate production.

There is thus a need for smarter agriculture practices, upgraded agricultural processing, and expanded export markets to take in excess production of various commodities that may be scarce, or come in abundance from time to time as climates rapidly shift.

In the end, how these two largest ASEAN countries will boost their food supply capability and trade, add value, and utilize them will spell success of ASEAN in cutting poverty while facing the climate challenge.

### The digital opportunity to deal with the climate challenge

While pondering the climate challenge we come to the digital opportunity when we realize that the stuff of science fiction is now reality. Artificial intelligence allows things other than people to be intuitive and think, move, and produce food smartly.

To continue to live affordable productive and healthy lives, where electricity, water and public transport improvements such as the new PUV systems in Davao and Cebu require smarter solutions provided by digital technologies that will allow us to escape the urban issues and food supply challenges of Metro Manila.

### Dealing with these challenges and opportunities

The climate challenge can be met with innovation and higher interregional cooperation.

In last weekend's Davao Agri Trade expo, new crops and approaches were discussed, and inspiring stories of young agripreneurs took the stage, as almost 10,000 visitors saw new technologies and product ideas made from agricultural commodities. This adds value and strengthens agribusiness as new challenges and opportunities arise.

Likewise, the launch of the Davao – Manado direct flight links Mindanao with ASEAN's largest country, allowing future business deals and cross supply arrangements to take place.

Heightened interregional cooperation to deal with the effects of climate change, disaster preparedness and response, and the capacity to trade commodities facilitated by technology platforms can map production areas across Southeast Asia and enable producers to easily find suppliers, communicate with them, and get the products they need.

These approaches strengthen trade and allows us to meet the climate challenge.

More to come.

For reactions: [facebook.com/johntripage](https://www.facebook.com/johntripage)





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# CREBA convention highlights support for nat'l land use bill

The country's largest organization of real estate developers supports the passage of the proposed national land use act (NLUA) to put the country's economic and physical development in order.

The bill, tagged as a priority measure in President Rodrigo R. Duterte's State of the Nation Address, is the third in the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations Inc. (CREBA)'s five-point agenda for housing, serving as the centerpiece of its 28th national convention set from Oct. 9-12 at Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City. At least 500 industry players are set to converge and discuss solutions to the country's housing concerns.

The proposed NLUA under Senate Bill No. 38 sets four major categories of land uses for planning purposes: Protection, production, settlements, and infrastructure.

"A national land use plan has long been needed by this country. If done correctly, it shall be a key policy reference for all local comprehensive land use and development plans in all sectors, including commercial, industrial, housing, and real estate," said CREBA national chairman Charlie A. V. Gorayeb.

Gorayeb, however, said the NLUA bill should adapt to current laws already used by the business community for important investment decisions. He was referring to such laws as RA 7279, or the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992 (as amended by RA10884) covering all lands in urban and urbanizable areas; PD 399 limiting

the use of strip lands; and RA 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, empowering local government units (LGUs) to reclassify agri lands if found more economically feasible for non-agri uses.

According to CREBA national president Noel Toti M. Cariño, "NLUA must also resolve the uncertainty as to where and what exactly is the extent of the 'protected lands' that are banned from conversion."

Citing a CREBA study validated by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), Gorayeb debunked misconception that the real estate sector is the "culprit" for food shortage from supposed "indiscriminate" conversion of lands.

It showed that agri lands account for some 12.5 million hectares or 42.72 percent of the country's total hectareage of 29.5 million. Yet, built-up or developed areas amounted to only 741,353 hectares or 2.52 percent of the total.

"Lands built up or developed for non-agricultural uses - from time immemorial up to year 2010 - have hardly made a dent in the country's total agricultural hectareage despite all government and private infrastructure nationwide.

"Agri land area even expanded by 5.4 percent from 2003 to 2010," Gorayeb said. "These data call for a rational and holistic land use policy that reflects realities on the ground, covering all areas of land use, and factoring in all development requirements of every sector to achieve a well-balanced and stable economy."



OPINION AND OPTION

# How to wreak havoc on a placid place



By **ELINANDO B. CINCO**

**R**ESIDENTS of two adjoining communities in Paranaque City dread the day when their homes get turned upside down.

Some 8,500 residents of the United Hills Villages and the United Paranaque Subdivision-2 – many of whom have been living in their house for nearly six decades – cringe in fear for that day when all sizes of heavy equipment will swoop down on their community.

The objective: To make way for the planned FTI tunnel that will cut across the heart of their 57-year-old neighborhood. Not only that – a one kilometer station will also be built on the overhead ground, parallel to the subterranean passageway.

A press statement given to this writer reads in part, thus:

“The natural serenity of the community was jolted on August 14, 2019 by the DOTr & JICA’s Filipino consultants’ presentation that the proposed FTI Subway Station will be located 70 meters inside the United Hills Village from the East Service Road extending about 1 kilometer from Cucumber Road to Marian Road II, an estimated area of 4 hectares to be acquired by the government for construction and later mixed-use development.

“The Environmental Impact Statement of the proposed amendment to the Sept 2017 NEDA-approved Metro Manila Subway Project (MMSP Phase 1) stone-heartedly states: Displacement of residents within the development area for the project is presumed. (page 2-29) The proposed land acquisition will reduce the land area (est. 20 ha) of United Hills Village by approximately one-fifth and the number of households (est. 650) by 35%. United Hills will significantly be broken up in terms of land and residents. Key informant interviews suggest that most of the affected households, especially near East Service Road, have been residents for 40 years or more and quite a number of whom were pioneer households... 6,000 schoolchildren of the Dr. Arcadio Santos National High School will be displaced. The barangay hall would have to be relocated. (pages 2-328-329)

“The DOTr caused the cutting of

all the trees in the FTI-GMTFM forest nursery in the middle of this year to accommodate the elevated Skyway and bus terminal. If the kilometer-long FTI Station is constructed as proposed, the majestic acacia trees at the Philcox compound will be killed. About 200-250 homes will be demolished. An estimated 140 non-residential structures would be impacted directly or indirectly.

“Disturbing the clay adobe soil between FTI and East Service Road and constant vibration might cause movement in the nearby fault-line. The community will experience a grief that will certainly manifest itself in the howling hallows of the subway tunnels. Its spirit will not be silenced until it finds justice.”

Indeed, a painstaking statement, if anyone asks me.

It was in the early 1960s that a young American and former GI, named Harry S. Stonehill – who chose to settle in the country and later became a trail-blazing businessman – saw the crying need of every Filipino to own a house-and-lot package of his dream house. And he went on to provide that dream.

Initially, only a few were takers even at ₱28 per square meter for a house-and-lot package, with a 300-square meter lot, and on installment basis, at that.

And Barrio Ibayo it came to be called. With its “isolated location,” even the letter carriers possessing the sturdiest pair of legs refused to deliver the mails.

By 1962, some 35 family-homeowners braved the odds in the area, and organized and registered their homeowners association called United Hills Association.

Today the three phases of UHV and United Paranaque Subdivision-2 have a combined population of 8,500 residents, distributed as follows: 3,000 UHV, 3,000 Malugay and Makati/South, 2,000 UPS-2, and 500 East Service Road. Their professional ratio, 35 percent seniors, and 65 percent middle-age professionals and businessmen.

Most of these homeowners have their house-and-lot as their only piece of property in life, and it frightens them to watch the horizon looming with threats of government expropriation



TITLE:

TODO ang paghahanda ng bansang Iran na madepensahan ang kanilang mga pasilidad sa langis.

Panay kasi ang banta ng mga Amerikano, ayon sa mga Iranian, na igaganti nila, kasama ang Saudi Arabia, ang pagkakabomba ng dalawang pinakamalalaking pasilidad ng huli kamakailan lamang.

Kalahati ng produksyon ng langis ng Saudi Arabia ang nahinto dahil sa nasabing bombahan sa gawaan at de-positohan ng langis nila.

Ayon sa mga Kano at Saudi Arabian, ang Iran ang nasa likod ng pagbomba.

Kung hindi man sila, ang mga Houthi sa Yemen na kakampi ng Iran ang may gawa.

Ayon sa mga Kano at Saudi Arabian, wala samang lakas at kakayahang ang mga Houthi na mambomba sa Saudi Arabia kung hindi sila suportado ng Iran.

Ang Iran at Saudi Arabia ang magkaribal sa agawan ng kapangyarihan sa Gitnang Silangan.

### ANO ANG TOTOO?

Hanggang ngayon, hindi pa malinaw kung cruise missile o missile mula sa drone ang ginamit sa pambobomba sa mga oil field ng Saudi Arabia.

Ang mga bala ng kanyon ng mga Houthi sa boundary ng Yemen at Saudi Arabia ay hindi makaabot sa pwesto ng dalawang oilfield.

Kaya missile mula sa drone at iba pa ang maaari umanon pinakawalan.

Ang mga bala ng kanyon ay umaabot lang sa 2-120 kilometro.

Pero ang drone, pwedeng lumipad ng daang kilometro at magpakawala ng missile.

Ang mga cruise missile o missile mismo ay umaabot ng 1,000 kilometro hanggang 10,000 kilometro.

Ang Iran umano ang suplayer ng missile ng mga Houthi na ginamit laban sa Saudi Arabia kaya nanggaling mismo sa Iran ang missile.

Pinaputok man ito mula sa lupa o sa drone.

### WALANG ANOMAN

Pero para sa mga Kano, walang anoman kung kanino o saan galing ang mga missile.

Ang importante may giyera at malaki ang interes ng mga Kano rito, depende sa kwento ng



## ULTIMATUM

ni BENNY ANTIPORDA

### GIYERA SA LANGIS NG IRAN, SAUDI AT AMERIKA

mga analyst sa pulitika at negosyo sa langis.

Ayon sa mga Kano, halos wala na silang interes na langis sa Middle East, nasa 5-10 porsyento na lang umano ang kanilang ini-import mula sa mga Arabong bansa.

May sarili na silang produksyon ng langis mula sa shale oilfield nila at daang taon ang suplay nila sa mga nasabing oil field nila.

At dahil napakalaki na ang kanilang produksyon ng langis at karambola ngayon ang mga Kano sa pagpandar ng pambiyahe at lunsaran ng mga ie-export nilang langis sa iba't ibang parte ng mundo.

### SIMPLE LANG

Dahil sa nalalapit nang pag-apaw ng suplay ng produktong petrolyo sa loob ng Amerika, ayon sa mga analyst, dumarating na nga ang punto na sasali na sila sa kompetensya sa bentahan ng langis.

At kokompetensyahin nila ang mga Organization of Exporting Countries sa pagbebenta ng langis kahit saan.

Kokompetensiyahin din nila ang mga bansang Britanya, Russia at mga bansa sa South America gaya ng Brazil at Venezuela na napakalalaki ang suplay ng langis.

Kung nasa 45 porsyento ng suplay ng OPEC ng langis sa mundo, ang natitira ay suplay naman ng Russia, Britanya, France at iba pa.

Mula rito, simple lang ang rason para magkagulo sa mga Arabong bansa.

Kung titigil ang langis sa Middle East dahil sa mga giyera, pagkakataon na ng mga Kano na mag-suplay ng langis sa mundo.

Kapag binomba ang mga oilfield ng Iran kahit mula sa mga barkong panggiyera ng mga Kano o galing sa mga base nito sa Saudi Arabia o Israel kaya, magkakagulo sa Middle East at titigil ang negosyong langis dito.

Kapag naggantihan ang lahat at nagkagiyera, gagana na ang export ng langis ng mga Kano at pupunuan nila ang kaku-

langan ng suplay mula sa OPEC, partikular ang mga suplay mula Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Libya at iba pa.

### TULAD NG DATI

Maaaring babalik ang bahagi ng dating kasaysayan na mga Kano ang pangunahing suplayer ng langis sa buong mundo.

Bago itinatag ang OPEC noong 1974, mga kompanyang langis ng mga Kano ang pangunahing nagkakalkal ng langis sa Gitnang Silangan at sila rin ang may kontrol sa bentahan ng mga produktong petrolyo dahil sa kanila ang mga refinery rin.

Ang mga barkong Greece ay lumaki para ibiyahe ang mga langis sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo.

Noong itinatag ang OPEC, binawi ng mga bansang kasapi ng OPEC ang pagmamayari sa mga oilfield o nasisira ang 100 porsyentong pag-aari ng mga Kano sa mga oilfield at refinery.

Kaya naman, nagkaroon ng mga bansang nagsasarili na sa pagkalkal at pagrepina ng langis at hindi makapasok ang mga Kano gaya noon sa Libya sa panahon ni Muammar Ghaddafi at ngayon sa Iran.

Ngayon naiiba na ang kasaysayan sa langis: matapos halos ubusin ng mga Kano ang mga deposito ng mga Arabo sa langis, kinakalkal na nila ang sarili nilang langis at gusto na nilang lumahok sa bentahan ng langis sa buong mundo.

Kaya kailangan nila ang giyera para magkagulo sa negosyong langis na bentahe nila?

Ano sa palagay ninyo, mga Bro?

Ang sure na nagaganap sa ang Pilipinas sa naghihirap sa giyera sa langis dahil nagmamahal ang presyo nito.

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