

DATE : 10-16-19

DAY : Wednesday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



# Chinese national arrested for alleged possession of agarwood

By **ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ**

**A** Chinese national was arrested for alleged illegal possession of some 14 kilos of rare agarwood worth ₱2.5 million in Quezon City.

Agarwood is a resin that is popular for its distinctive fragrance and is used to make incense, perfume and medicinal products.

Qing Nan Lin was collared last October 11 by operatives of the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade (Task Force POGD) under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu reiterated his call to the public to sustain the effort with the information they provide against illegal wildlife trade.

"We can only go from strength to strength for as long as we can rely on increasing public vigilance against environmental crimes as shown by this recent arrest," Cimatu said.

The contraband is now in the custody of the office of Task Force POGI in

the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) in Quezon City.

BMB senior ecosystems management specialist Rogelio Demellestes Jr. said initial investigations point to the forests of Samar or Leyte as the sources of the rare wood.

"Reports also indicate that tree poachers operating in the forests of Surigao and Butuan are also sources of this priceless wood product," Demellestes said.

He added that the quality of the seized agarwood could be sold at least ₱180,000 a kilo.

Also arrested in the sting operation were Jonathan Guzman and a certain Roberto Intes, both Filipinos.

"Our partners in the NBI-ECD are now checking their database to validate the identity of Intes who we suspect to be an Indonesian," Demellestes said.

The three have been charged for violation of the Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, and Presidential Decree 705, as amended, or the Re-

vised Philippine Forestry Code.

They are presently detained and awaiting court proceedings at the Detention Facility of the National Bureau of Investigation.

"The trafficking of agarwood has spawned the indiscriminate cutting of Lanete (*Wrightia laniti*) and Lapnisan (*Aquilaria malaccensis*) trees," Demellestes said, noting that high-grade agarwood could even fetch as much as ₱300,000 to ₱350,000 a kilo.

Lanete and Lapnisan are included in the national list of threatened Philippine plants and the list of wildlife species per DENR Department Administrative Order 2007-01.

Agarwood resin is formed when the host tree becomes infected with a mold called *Phialophora parasitica*. The mold infection makes the tree produce a dark aromatic resin called aloes or aga in its heartwood.

The fragrant resin is used to make incense, perfume and medicinal products particularly in the Middle East and Asia.



## Chinese nabbed for possessing P2.5-m wood

By Rio N. Araja

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Tuesday said a Chinese national was nabbed for illegal possession of 14 kilos of agarwood valued at P2.5 million in Quezon City.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu lauded the apprehension of Qing Nan Lin by the operatives of the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade (Task Force POGIO under the DENR on Oct. 1 after a nine-kilometer pursuit operation that ended outside a Chinese temple at 81 P. Tuazon St. along the corner of Banawe and Calamba streets.

"We can only go from strength to strength for as long as we can rely on increasing public vigilance against environmental crimes as shown by this recent arrest," Cimatu said.

The contraband is now in the custody of the office of Task Force POGI in the Biodiversity Management Bureau.

Rogelio Demellestes Jr., senior ecosystems management specialist, said initial investigations pointed to the forests of Samar or Leyte as the sources of the rare wood.

"Reports also indicate that tree poachers operating in the forests of Surigao and Butuan are also sources of this priceless wood product," he said.

The quality of the seized agarwood could be sold at P180,000 a kilo, he said.

Also arrested in the sting operation were Jonathan Guzman and a certain Roberto Intes, both Filipinos.



# P2.5M worth of rare agarwood seized

By Elmer N. Manuel

Operatives from the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade reported the seizure of 14 kilos of agarwood valued at P2.5 million in Quezon City after a nine-kilometer pursuit.

A Chinese national, along with two others, were arrested by the members of the Task Force POGI at Tuazon Street in QC during the sting operation conducted by the task force under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The suspects – identified as Qing Nan Lin, a Chinese national and his cohorts Jonathan Guzman and a certain Roberto Intes, both Filipinos – were collared by authorities for possession of the agarwood.

According to Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) senior ecosystems management specialist Rogelio Demellestes, Jr., initial investigations point to the forests of Samar or Leyte as the sources of the of the rare wood.

Agarwood is a resin that is valued for its distinctive fragrance. It is formed when

the host tree becomes infected with a mold called *Phialophora parasitica* and the infection makes the tree produce a dark aromatic resin called aloes or aga in its heartwood.

The fragrant resin is used to make incense, perfume and medicinal products particularly in the Middle East and Asia.

Authorities also seized in the operation is a brand new black Toyota Super Grandia Luxury van, with conduction sticker A5-C161, which Qing used in transporting the contraband and an improvised registration plate with number NA-8659 was also found inside the van.

## The DENR lauded the efforts of its task force against illegal wildlife trade

“Reports also indicate that tree poachers operating in the forests of Surigao and Butuan are also sources of this priceless wood product,” Demellestes said, adding that the quality of the seized agarwood could be sold at P180,000 a kilo, at the least.

“Our partners in the NBI-ECD are now

checking their database to validate the identity of Intes who we suspect to be an Indonesian,” he added.

Demellestes added that the trafficking of agarwood has spawned the indiscriminate cutting of Lanete (*Wrightia laniti*) and Lapnisan (*Aquilaria malaccensis*) trees and noted that high-grade agarwood could even fetch as much as P300,000 to P350,000 a kilo.

The suspects were charged for violation of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, and Presidential Decree 705, as amended, or the Revised Philippine Forestry Code.



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EDITORIAL



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## Cimatu lauds arrest of illegal trader of agar wood

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu has lauded the arrest of a Chinese national for illegal possession of some 14 kilos of agar wood valued at P2.5 million in Quezon City.

Cimatu made the commendation even as he reiterated his call on the public to sustain the effort with the information they provide against illegal wildlife trade.

He stressed that the tips from concerned citizens are instrumental to the success of operations of the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade or Task Force POGI.

"We can only go from strength to strength for as long as we can rely on increasing public vigilance against environmental crimes as shown by this recent arrest," Cimatu said.

Members of Task Force POGI arrested on Oct. 11

the suspect identified as Qing Nan Lin. He was collared after a nine-kilometer pursuit operation that ended outside a Chinese temple at 81 P. Tuazon Street in Quezon City from the corner of Banawe and Calamba streets.

The contraband is now in the custody of the office of Task Force POGI in the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) in Quezon City.

BMB senior ecosystems management specialist Rogelio Demellestes, Jr., meanwhile, said initial investigations point to the forests of Samar or Leyte as the sources of the rare wood.

"Reports also indicate that tree poachers operating in the forests of Surigao and Butuan are also sources of this priceless wood product," Demellestes said. He added that the quality of the seized agar wood could be sold at P180,000 a kilo, at the



Cimatu

least.

Also arrested in the sting operation were Jonathan Guzman and a certain Roberto Intes, both Filipinos.

"Our partners in the NBI-ECD are now checking their database to validate the identity of Intes who we suspect to be an Indonesian," Demellestes said.

The three have been charged with violation of Republic Act (RA) No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, and Presidential Decree (PD) 705, as amended, or the Revised Philippine Forestry Code.



## Chinese trader nabbed with P2.5-M rare wood

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu lauded his men for the arrest of a Chinese trader in possession of a rare wood valued at P2.5 million after a nine-kilometer chase.

The DENR's Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade or Task Force POGI on Friday nabbed Qing Nan Lin in a hot pursuit operation that ended outside a Chinese temple at 81 P. Tuazon Street in QC from the corner of Banawe and Calamba Streets.

POGI said that the million peso-worth agarwood is now in its custody at the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) in QC.

Agarwood is a fragrant dark resinous wood used in making incense, perfume and small carvings.

According to BMB senior ecosystems management specialist Rogelio Demellestes, Jr. initial investigations point to the forests of Samar or Leyte as the sources of the the rare wood.

"Reports also indicate that tree poachers operating in the forests of Surigao and Butuan are also sources of this priceless wood product," Demellestes said.

Joel dela Torre



## P2.5 MILYONG HALAGA NG AGARWOOD NAKUMPISKA SA CHINESE NATIONAL AT 2 IBA PA

NAARESTO ng mga awtoridad ang isang Chinese national at dalawang iba pang katao matapos makuha sa mga ito ang labing-apat na kido ng agarwood na nagkahalaga ng P2.5 milyon.

Si Qing Nan Lin ay naaresto noong Oktubre 11 ng mga tauhan ng Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade o Task Force POGI ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), matapos ang siyam na kilometrong habulan na natapos sa labas ng Chinese temple na matagpuan sa #81 P. Tuazon Street sa Quezon City.

Pinuri naman ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ang matagumpay na operasyon na ito kasabay ng panawagan sa publiko na makipagtulungan sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng impormasyon laban sa illegal wildlife trade na nagreresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng Task

Force POGI sa mga lumalabag sa batas.

"We can only go from strength to strength for as long as we can rely on increasing public vigilance against environmental crimes as shown by this recent arrest," sabi pa ni Cimatu.

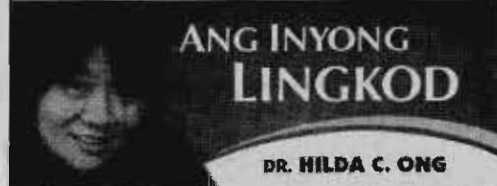
Ang mga nakumpiskang kontrabando ay kasalukuyang nasa tanggapan ng Task Force POGI sa Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) sa Quezon City.

Ayon kay BMB senior ecosystems management specialist Rogelio Demellentes, Jr. batay sa kanilang inisyal na imbestigasyon, nagmumula sa kagubatan ng Samar o Leyte ang mga kaibaing kahoy na ito.

"Reports also indicate that tree poachers operating in the forests of Surigao and Butuan are also sources of this priceless wood product," sabi pa ni Demellentes. Aniya, naibenta ang agarwood sa halagang P180,000 kada kilo.

Kabilang din sa naaresto sa operasyon sina Jonathan Guzman at isang nagangalang Roberto Intes.

"Our partners in the NBI-ECD are now checking their database to validate the identity of Intes who we suspect to be an



## ANG INYONG LINGKOD

DR. HILDA C. ONG

Indonesian," saad pa ni Demellentes.

Ang tatlong naarestong suspek ay kakasuhan ng paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o mas kilala sa tawag na Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act at Presidential Decree 705 o ng Revised Philippine Forestry Code.

Kasalukuyang nakapiit sa detention facility ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) ang mga naarestong suspek habang hinihintay ang ipag-utos ng husgado.

"The trafficking of agarwood has spawned the indiscriminate cutting of Lanete (*Wrightia laniti*) and Lapnisan (*Aquilaria malaccensis*) trees," pagdidiin ni Demellentes kasabay ng pagsasabi na posibleng umabot ng P300,000 hanggang P350,000 kada kilo ang halaga nito.

Ang Lanete at Lapnisa ay kabilang sa national listahan ng nanganganib na halaman sa Pilipinas at listahan ng mga wildlife species ayon sa DENR Department Administrative Order 2007-01.

Ang agarwood ay kilala sa natatangi nitong amoy. Ito ay nabubuo kapag ang isang puno ay nahawaan ng amag na tinatawag na *Phialophora parasitica*. Sa pamamagitan nito ay nakagagawa ang puno ng maitim at mabangong dagta na tinatawag ding aloes o aga sa pinakasentro ng kahoy nito.

Ang mabangong dagta

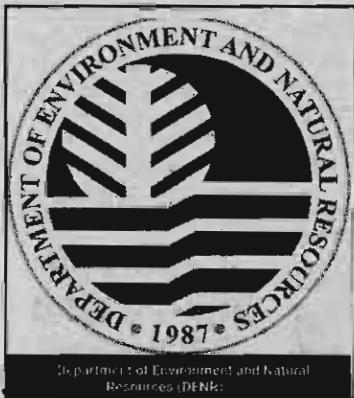
na ito ay ginagamit sa paggawa ng insenso, pabango at iba pang medicinal products partikular na sa mga bansa sa Middle East at Asia.

Kasama rin sa nakumpiska ng mga awtoridad ang isang bagong itim na Toyota Super Grandia van na may conduction sticker na A5-C161 na ginagamit ni Qing sa pagbiyaha ng mga kontrabando. Nakuha rin sa loob ng van ang isang improvised registration plate na may bilang NA-8659.

Nakasaad sa Executive Order No. 277 na maaaring kumpiskahin ng DENR ang mga sasakyan o "all conveyances used either by land, water or air in the commission of the offense and to dispose of the same in accordance with pertinent laws, regulations or policies on the matter."

Bago ito, naaresto rin ng Task Force POGI noong Oktubre 10, 2019 ang isang lalaki na nakilalang si Rommel dela Cruz na naaktuhang nagbebenta ng limang ball pythons at 13 tarantula na nagkakahalagang P106,000 sa Marikina City.

Ang Task Force POGI ay binubuo ng wildlife law enforcers mula sa Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ng DENR at ng National Bureau of Investigation-Environmental Crime Division (NBI-ECD).



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)



## ₱2.5-M agarwood nahuli sa Chinese poacher

Inaresto ang isang Chinese sa diumano'y ilegal na pag-iingat ng may 14 kilo ng agarwood na nagkakahalaga ng ₱2.5 milyon sa Quezon City.

Ang agarwood ay isang resin na popular sa natatangi nitong halimuyak at ginagamit sa paggawa ng insenso, pabango at medicinal products.

Si Qing Nan Lin ay dinampot noong Oktubre 11 ng mga operatiba ng Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade (Task Force POGI) sa ilalim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Muling idiniin ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ang kanyang panawagan sa publiko na tulungan ang pagsisikap sa pagsuplong sa mga gumagawa ng illegal wildlife trade.

"We can only go from strength to strength for as long as we can rely on increasing public vigilance against environmental crimes as shown by this recent arrest," ani Cimatu.

Ang kontrabando ay nasa kustiodya na ngayon ng opisina ng Task Force POGI sa Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) sa Quezon City.

Sinabi ni BMB senior ecosystems management specialist Rogelio Demellestes Jr. na lumutang sa inisyal na imbestigasyon na ang rare wood ay nagmula sa kagubatan ng Samar o Leyte.

"Reports also indicate that tree poachers operating in the forests of Surigao and Butuan are also sources of this priceless wood product," ani Demellestes.

Idinagdag niya na ang kalidad ng nasamsam na agarwood ay maaaring ipagbili sa halagang ₱180,000 kada kilo.

Inaresto rin sa sting operation ang mga Pilipino na sina Jonathan Guzman at Roberto Intes.

"Our partners in the NBI-ECD are now checking their database to validate the identity of Intes who we suspect to be an Indonesian," ani Demellestes.

**Elielyn De Vera-Ruiz**





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## DENR probes deeper into fish kill, shellfish mortality in Manila Bay, Parañaque, Las Piñas

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](https://twitter.com/jonlmayuga)

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is conducting a thorough investigation into the massive fish kill in Manila Bay in Las Piñas and Parañaque Cities, and shellfish mortality affecting mussel farms in Bacoor City and Sangley Point, Cavite.

The twin incidents triggered speculations that the water quality in the affected area has worsened, contrary to earlier claims by concerned government agencies heralding the "positive impact" of an ongoing effort to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

The Department of Agriculture (DA), following the reported incident of fish kill, has deployed its Fishery Law Enforcement-Quick Response Team (FLE-QRT) in the affected areas on October 10, and reported that that the fish kill has resulted in the loss of an estimated volume of 1 to 2 tons of fish composed mainly of *bagaong*, *bakule*, *sapsap*, tilapia, *bakoko*, *siliw*, *manabon* and barakuda.

The DA's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) further said in a report dated October 11, 2019, that the water quality test conducted in three sampling areas by BFAR's National Fisheries Laboratory Division (NFLD) and BFAR 4A showed poor levels of dissolved oxygen, and higher levels of ammonia and phosphates than the standard level.

On the reported shellfish mortality in Bacoor and Sangley Point in Cavite, the DA-BFAR dispatched another team from its Fisheries Protection and Law Enforcement Group (FPLEG), together with the BFAR BFAR-NFLD and technical personnel from BFAR 4A, who found out that the level of salinity in the areas, which ranged from 19 ppt to 25 ppt, is lower than the required level for shellfish survival which is 27 ppt to 35 ppt.

Also, laboratory test results showed that dissolved oxygen levels in the sampling areas are low.

High concentrations of ammonia and phosphates were, likewise, detected. These chemicals, at high levels, may have detrimental effects to fish and other marine life, result showed.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concern Benny D. Antiporda, sought for comment, meanwhile, dismissed claims that the water quality in Manila Bay, particularly in Las Piñas and Parañaque, as well as in Bacoor, Cavite, have worsened amid the ongoing effort to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

"Right now, we are still looking into the incident. As a matter of fact, I am waiting for reports from our field offices," Antiporda, the spokesman of Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu told the BUSINESS-MIRROR.

Antiporda also said the fish kill which was observed

near the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP), formerly known as Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LP-PCHEA), is not that "massive."

The DENR on Monday issued a statement assuring the public that appropriate measures will be undertaken to make sure the recent fish kill in Las Piñas and Parañaque will not affect the ongoing rehabilitation efforts in Manila Bay.

The DENR was tasked by President Duterte to lead the Manila Bay Task Force tasked primarily to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

"The DENR is now gathering more information on the extent and the cause of the fish kill in LP-PWP," Cimatu said.

The Environmental Management Bureau-National Capital Region (EMB-NCR) had already conducted tests in LPPWP for several key water quality indicators, the result of which will enable the DENR to determine what measures are needed to mitigate adverse impacts on other marine life in the area.

"We are also doing this because we want to make sure that the fish kill incident will not cause any delay to the ongoing Manila Bay rehabilitation efforts," Cimatu added.

DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caanca said the water test results will be out "in the next few days."

The results, she said, would complement studies being done by experts from the BFAR of the Department of Agriculture, and the city governments of Las Piñas and Parañaque.

"While agriculturists initially assessed that the state of some of the fishes indicate dynamite fishing, our parameter tests on the water quality in the area could pinpoint other factors that may have contributed to the fish kill," Caanca said.

The DENR-EMB tested the LP-PWP waters for dissolved oxygen, pH level, nitrates, phosphates, fecal coliform and cyanide.

The results could show whether the fish died through toxic means, or through oxygen saturation that is determined by the level of dissolved oxygen in the water, which is essential to sustain aquatic life, Caanca said.



FILE: DENR probes deeper into fish kill,  
shellfish mortality in Manila Bay,  
Parañaque, Las Piñas

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Personnel from the DENR, the local governments of Las Piñas and Parañaque, and the so-called bakawan warriors assigned to LPPWP had already cleared the shore of dead fish, which was causing a heavy stench in the area.

They were able to gather more than 200 sacks and over 5,000 kilograms of different marine species, such as fish, shrimps and crabs.

"The cleanup was necessary to reduce hazards to both human and environmental health," Caanacan said. "We must remove the dead fish before the tide brings them back to the sea and further affect the water quality in the area."

Pending the results of the water tests, Caanacan advised the public against bathing in the area to avoid ingestion through the skin or by accidental swallowing of chemicals, which may be present in the water.

Cyanide, one of the test parameters could cause headaches, rapid heart rate, dizziness, and vomiting when ingested in small amounts. Exposure to larger amounts could result in loss of consciousness, lung injury, birth defects when exposed during pregnancy, and respiratory failure that could lead to death.



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## Fishkill inaagapan ng DENR

Tiniyak ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ginagawa ng kanilang tanggapan ang lahat upang masigurado na hindi maaapektuhan ng fishkill sa Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park ang isinasagawang rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay.

Sinabi pa ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na kasalukuyan ding nag-sasagawa ng malalimang imbestigasyon ang Environmental Management Bureau-National Capital Region upang malaman kung ano talaga ang sanhi ng fishkill sa wetland park.

“Minamadali na rin ang resulta nito para ma-determine kung anong hakbang ang isasagawa para maibsan ang impact nito sa marine life sa ibang lugar,” dagdag ng kalihim.

Samantala, sinabi ni DENR-National Capital Region Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan na ilalabas ang resulta ng water test sa mga darating na araw.

Pinayuhan din nito ang publiko na iwasang maligo sa lugar para hindi magkasakit sa balat at huwag din manghuhuli ng mga isda. **(Riz Dominguez)**



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## House probe sought on Manila Bay's 'continuous pollution'

The "continuous pollution" of Manila Bay has prompted a senior administration lawmaker to call for an inquiry into the status of the bay's rehabilitation.

Dasmariñas City Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr., chairman of the House committee on environment and natural resources, authored House Resolution 247 seeking a legislative inquiry into its status after President Duterte ordered a cleanup of the bay in January.

The Chief Executive ordered a comprehensive rehabilitation of Manila Bay after the six-month closure of Boracay island in Aklan turned out to be a success in 2018.

Duterte ordered the relocation of informal settlers and immediate shutdown of establishments that continue to pollute and poison the waters of Manila Bay, including the tributaries leading to it. The government allocated P1.35 billion for the rehabilitation.

Barzaga said it was ironic that since the Supreme Court (SC) ordered a cleanup of the bay in 2008, Manila Bay continues to be the "most polluted in the country, serving as a giant waste dump for the metropolis and adjacent cities."

An inter-agency task force headed by Secretary Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has been tasked to implement the bay cleanup.

- Delon Porcalla

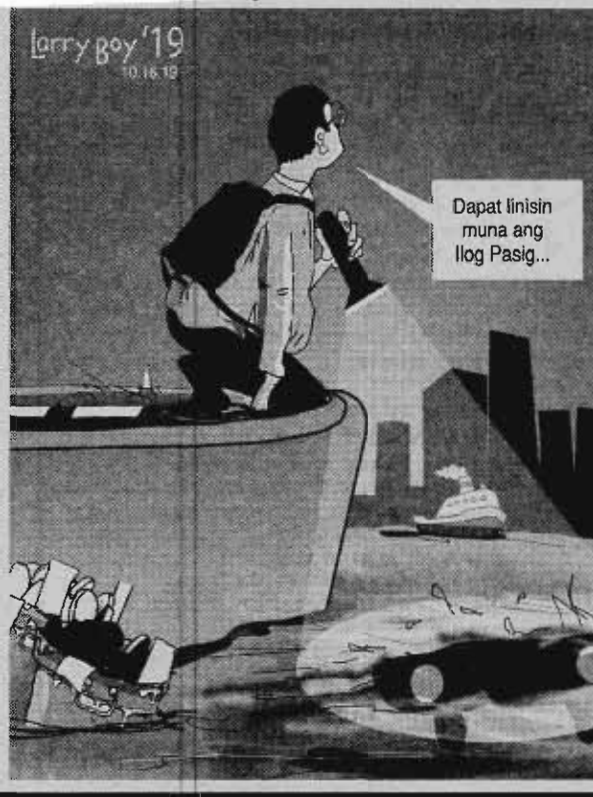


**Editorial**

## *Pasig River ferry, okey kung malinis ang ilog*

**L**AHAT nang paraan ay naiisip ngayon para masolusyunan ang grabeng trapik sa Metro Manila. Isa sa pinagtutuunan na makakatulong sa sitwasyon ng trapik ay ang Pasig River ferry system. Maganda umanong alternatibo ang ferry at malaki ang maitutulong sa panahon ngayon na pinuproblema nang mamamayan kung paano makararating sa kanilang trabaho o eskuwelahan dahil sa trapik. Ayon sa pag-aaral, bilyong piso ang nasasayang bawat araw dahil sa trapik. Sa EDSA, gumugugol ng dalawa hanggang tatlong oras ang mga motorista dahil sa trapik.

Sabi ni Sen. Sonny Angara, malaki ang maitutulong ng ferry sa ngayon lalo't hindi pa operational ang Skyway, LRT 2 at ang Philippine National Railways. Sa kasalukuyan, nasa construction stage pa ang Sky-



way na magli-link sa NLEX at Slex. Nagkaproblema naman ang Light Rail Transit 2 at nasa rehabilitation stage naman ang PNR. Ayon kay Angara, dapat itong tunan ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

Maganda ang proposal na pasiglahin ang operasyon ng Pasig Ferry. Sa kasalukuyan, may 14 na stations ang Pasig Ferry pero 11 lamang ang operational. Napagsisilbihan nito ang commuters mula Maynila, Mandaluyong, Makati at Pasig.

Tama si Angara na malaki ang maitutulong ng Pasig ferry sa problema sa trapiko. Pero paano mahihikayat ang mga tao na sumakay sa ferry kung ang nakakasulasok na amoy ng ilog ay hindi kakayanin. Sa totoo lang, masarap sanang magbiyahe sa ferry pero ang hindi matatagalan ay ang makabaliktad-sikmurang amoy ng tubig. Isa pang problemang kinakaharap ng mga pasahero ay ang mga ginagawang 'di-kaaya-aya ng mga nakatira sa pampang ng Pasig River na hinahagisan nila ng dumi ng tao ang dumaraang ferry.

Mas maganda kung pagtutuunan muna sanang linis ang ilog para maging kaaya-aya at mahikayat ang mga tao na sumakay dito. Protektahan din sila sa mga salaulang nakatira sa pampang.

Noong nakaraang buwan, inatasan ni President Duterte si DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu na linis ang Pasig River. Sana ay maisakatuparan ito para maging matagumpay ang pagyaot ng ferry. Malaki ang maitutulong ng ferry sa problema sa trapiko.



THE LEGAL FRONT

# The Manila Water's threat: Serious or sewage?



By JUSTICE ART D. BRION (RET.)

**A**CCORDING to media reports, Manila Water warned the Supreme Court that it would raise water rates by 780% if the fine the court imposed for violation of its sewage water treatment obligations would not be reconsidered. The obligations are based on the law and the terms of its exclusive franchise.

If the media report is correct, Manila Water is not only asking for the reconsideration of the court's ruling; more than this, it is threatening the court and telling the nation: reverse the ruling, or suffer untold miseries.

Involved in the consolidated cases are two giants in the Philippine business sector – Manila Water whose main investors are the Ayala/Zobel interests; and Maynilad, whose main investor is Metro Pacific Investments Corporation. Both companies are also giants in many other business activities imbued with public interest, among them, telecommunication, media, and energy generation and distribution.

To be sure, either of these companies – by itself, together, or through their controlled companies – can bring about the dire consequences that Manila Water supposedly threatens in its motion. They can indeed harm public interest if they want to. And in all likelihood, the owners of Manila Water fully know the import of the threat and to whom it is directly addressed; it has not been without experience in dealing with the court.

In considering the present motion, I suggest that the court take a look and derive lessons from Republic, et al. v. Judge De los Angeles, Enrique Zobel, et al., G.R. L -30240, that saw then Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, in 1988, bewailing the efforts of the respondents to thwart the execution of the court's 1965 ruling.

The 1965 ruling found that the respondents enlarged their property "from 9,652.583 hectares to about 12,000 hectares, thereby usurping about 2,000 hectares consisting of portions of the territorial sea, the foreshore, the beach, and navigable waters properly belonging to the public domain."

Twenty years after, or in 2008 when I joined the court, the execution of the court's 1965 decision was still pending; to my recollection, the RTC judge handling the execution could not find land registry records and this failure effectively stalled the full execution of the 1965 decision.

They say that there are many ways of skinning a cat. Republic v. Delos Angeles may be one; a threat may be another. A big difference, though, exists between the first mode and the second.

In the 1965/1988 case, the court's frustrated efforts might have transpired without triggering massive public outcry because the public interest directly involved was local. Times were unsettled, too, and our Constitution was new. Social media at that time was negligible.

At stake in the present case, on the other hand, is a whole lot more – the water supply of the people of Metropolitan Manila under the Manila Water-Maynilad franchises.

More than this, the present dispute relates to the treatment of sewage that flows into Manila Bay, substantially polluting the Bay, killing its aquatic life, and depriving the people of Metro Manila of their food source and livelihood.

This time, clear national interest is at stake as Metro Manila is our center of government, diplomacy, finance, culture, education, and the economy, and had a population of almost 13 million in 2015.

The court and the President, no less, must thus act and use their vast array of enforcement tools. Response from Congress should also be forthcoming as the whole government is called upon to respond when national interest is involved.

After reading the exhaustive ponencia of Justice Ramon Paul L. Hernando, I can discern why Manila Water had to resort to threats. Justice Hernando's ruling covered all bases, from the importance of water and its proper treatment, the history and applicability of the covering rules and legislation, to the manner the respondents violated the law and the conditions of their franchise. The good justice, in short, issued a strong ruling.

I will not say anything more beyond these comments, out of respect for the court and its rule against comments on matters sub judice.

Let me caution though that the present case and the respondent's threat may have impact beyond the violation and the fine imposed; it may even trigger the use of the Constitution's reserve powers; or a change in the court's interpretative perspectives, when and if proper; and, possibly, the re-thinking of the liberal democratic governance model that we follow.

For a long time, we have been following the American liberal democratic model of governance based

on our Constitution whose terms we largely borrowed from the US. For some time under this model, we were the leading light that other countries in Asia looked up to because of our relative economic prosperity.

But things have changed since then. The liberalism that focused on individual rights has not proven itself wholly successful in its Philippine incarnation; it may now even threaten long held and cherished native traditions, among them, those relating to gender and marriage.

The market economy that accompanies a liberal democracy has not at all liberated the greater number of our people from poverty; 20% or so of our people still live in extreme poverty with no immediate alleviation in sight.

If our market economy has exhibited favorable results at all, these results are in favor of the elite, among whom are the controlling interests of Manila Water and Maynilad. The gap separating them from the poor, in fact, has been widening rather than narrowing. Our middle class has not gathered strength.

Generally, therefore, the American model of liberal democracy has not provided widespread beneficial results. In contrast, our Asian neighbors, while labelling themselves as liberal democracies, never fully bought into the liberal democratic concepts of primacy of individual rights and the rule of market forces. They did not forget the collective interest, gave due weight to the interest of the nation, and governed themselves accordingly.

The present times now see us, not only lagging behind most of our neighboring countries, but saddled by unsettling problems due mostly to unfulfilled popular expectations. Economically, we may even be surpassed in the near future by a country that only 40 years ago was still recovering from the ravages of war.





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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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The Manila Water's threat: serious or sewage? PAGE 11 2/2

Under these circumstances and with dawning realization of the need for newer governing perspectives, we might just find ourselves moving, from our present system of governance, towards the opposite direction, or to some place in between appropriate to our needs as a nation.

Some might even claim that the country has already begun moving, starting with the election of President Duterte whose life and beginnings have not been elitist; who won without the support of the elite; and whose support by the masses, after three years in office, is still substantial. Even the court has moved when it interpreted

the martial law provisions expansively.

Let us wait and see what will happen to Manila Waters' threat and how the resulting interaction will impact on our

nation's future directions.

*artdbriion916.legalfront.mb@gmail.com*



Liliw Mayor Erickson Sulibit (right) explains to barangay chairmen and municipal counselors their town's water shortage issue in a gathering near Barangay Kanlurang Bukal, where the town's water source is. **Roy Tomandao**

## Liliw hopes P55-m rehab ends its water woes

By Roy Tomandao

LILIW, Laguna—The local government of Liliw hopes to solve the town's water problems with a P55-million total rehabilitation project of its water system through a loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines.

Liliw Mayor Erickson Sulibit explained to all barangay chairmen of the town their situation and the dwindling water sources in Barangay Kanlurang Bukal along Mount Banahaw.

Apart from the LandBank loan, the mayor said the Department of the Inte-

rior and Local Government will provide an additional P11 million from the Assistance to Municipality Fund, which will be allocated to renovating the local Water Treatment Facility that in turn reuses river water to provide potable water to residents.

Sulibit said the water distribution pipeline was the problem because in addition to its present falling water pressure, it should have been raised to accommodate 33 barangays with over 30,000 families.

According to a local government study, it appears that instead of water

levels rising during the rainy season, it is actually decreasing as opposed to the summer season, the mayor said.

Climate change is believed to be the source of the problem in Mount Banahaw, where five barangays suffered a water shortage more than five months ago.

The villages of Daniw, Dita, Dagatan, Malabo Kalantukan, and Bayate were reported to have low water pressure. In addition, the neighboring towns of Majayjay, Nagcarlan, Rizal, Lucban, and the city of San Pablo are now experiencing poor water flow from their springs.





# Coal-fired power plant inaugurated in Quezon

**MAUBAN, Quezon** : San Buenaventura Power Ltd. Co. (SBPL) inaugurated on Tuesday its 500-megawatt (MW) supercritical coal-fired power plant, a first in the Philippines.

The P52.6-billion power plant of SBPL — a joint venture of Meralco PowerGen Corp., the power generation arm of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), and New Growth BV, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Electricity Generating Public Co. Ltd. of Thailand — is now providing baseload capacity to the Luzon grid.

SBPL shall sell the electricity generated by the plant to Meralco under a 20-year power supply agreement (PSA) approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) in May 2015.

The coal facility, whose commercial operations started on September 26, currently generates power for Luzon — which accounts for about 72 percent of the country's domestic product output.

MGen President and Chief Executive Of-

ficer Rogelio Singson said the plant uses a high efficiency, low emissions (HELE) coal technology that could reduce carbon dioxide emissions and improve the efficiency of the power plant, producing more amount of energy with less coal.

In his keynote speech, Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said the 500-MW facility will help provide much needed power in the country, most especially in Luzon, as the Duterte administration continues to realize its Build, Build, Build program.

ERC Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Agnes Devanadera said that because of such facilities, Mauban has been transformed into a vibrant and progressive community.

SBPL said the coal plant was partly funded by a P42.15-billion project finance facility, making it the country's largest all-peso transaction to date that was put together by a consortium of local banks.

A consortium of South Korea's Daelim

Industrial Co. Ltd. and Japan's Mitsubishi Corp. is SBPL's engineering, procurement and construction contractor for the project.

The ERC earlier granted a provisional authority to operate (PAO), instead of certificate of compliance (CoC), to SBPL pending the completion of other requirements.

Under Republic Act 9136, or the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001," generation companies need to obtain a CoC from the agency before commencing commercial operations of their power plants, provided they secure health, safety and environmental clearances from the appropriate government agencies.

"A PAO has to be issued instead of a CoC [certificate of compliance] in view of the other requirements which must be submitted within a specific period of time," Devanadera had said.

SBPL originally scheduled the coal plant's commercial operation on September 15 but was deferred following

questions raised by the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) on SBPL's utilization of water rights.

"We were able to provide adequate, factual answers immediately and NWRB responded also as promptly. Now, they are privy to the urgency of the power situation at hand, and, hopefully, gained new insights that will help them be more circumspect in their succeeding engagements within the power industry or beyond," Meralco Vice President and head of Regulatory Management Jose Ronald Valles said in a statement last month.

Nonetheless, Meralco has lauded the regulator's "swift decision" to allow SBPL to begin operations of the coal plant that would prove critical in the coming months to augment the country's existing power supply.

Meralco shares went up by P2 or 0.55 percent to close at P367 apiece on Tuesday.

**JORDEENE B. LAGARE**



## 2 ANTIQUE ISLANDS NOT IN MINE FIRM'S DEV'T PLAN

ILOILO CITY—The Semirara Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC) said it had already relinquished its right to “explore, develop and mine” Antique’s Caluya and Sibay islands, which were declared by the government as coal mining reservations.

In a letter to the Inquirer on Monday, Ruben Lozada, SMPC vice president and resident manager, said the firm formalized this decision in the 2018 Amendment to Coal Operating Contract (COC) No. 5 executed by the Department of Energy and SMPC.

Lozada was reacting to an Inquirer report on a resolution passed by the Antique provincial board requesting Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu to review the mineral reservation status of Caluya and Sibay islands.

### Review

The board asked Cimatu to conduct a review, saying the mining reservation status of the islands had prevented residents to undertake ecotourism development and hampered investments in the area due to the possibility of coal mining operations there.

Under Proclamation No. 649 issued in 1940 by then President Manuel Quezon, the islands of Mindoro as well as Semirara, Sibay and Caluya in Antique were declared coal mining reservations. The proclamation covered about 38,100 hectares in Mindoro and 12,100 ha in Antique.

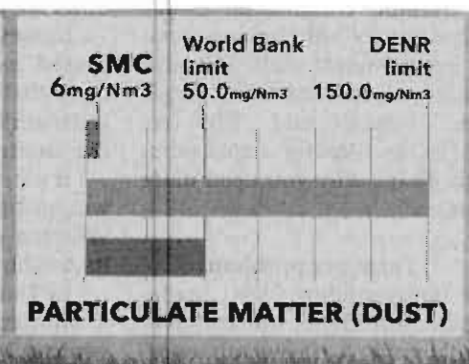
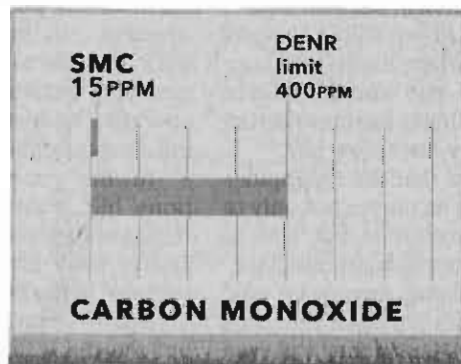
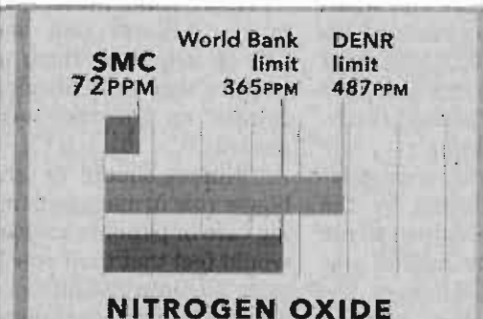
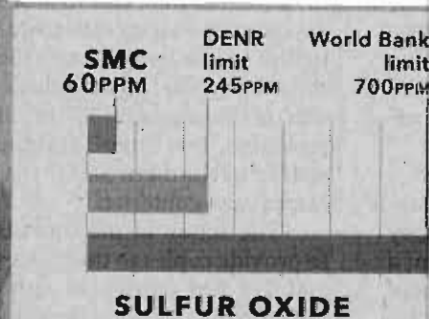
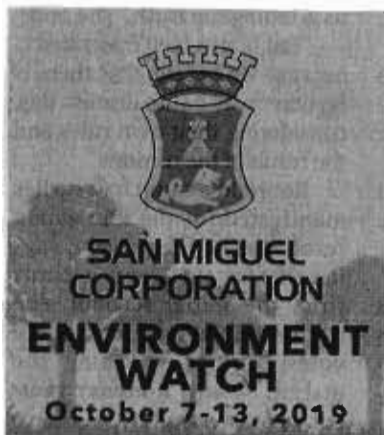
SMPC has been operating one of the biggest coal mines in Asia on Semirara Island since 1999 after it took over the government-owned Semirara Coal Corp.

In its disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Aug. 6, 2018, SMPC said the COC was amended “in order to optimize the development and production of coal resources [on] Semirara Island.”

SMPC operates the Molave and Narra pits at Barangay Semirara on Semirara Island. Rehabilitation is being undertaken at Pannian pit, which was closed in September 2016 “following the depletion of its mineable coal reserves.” —NESTOR P. BURGOS JR. INQ



San Miguel Corporation's Limay CFB (Circulating Fluidized Bed) power plant undergoes daily emission testing. Average results for the week show its emissions are way below Department of Environment and Natural Resources and World Bank limits.





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THE PHILIPPINE STAR  
**nation**

Editor: TERESA B. COROS

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 16, 2019

Personnel of Cebu City's Commission on Parks and Playgrounds cut trees along Pope John Paul II Avenue in Barangay Mabolo on Monday.  
A.N. SAMAYNA/THE FREEMAN



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**ENVIRONMENTAL** advocates in Cebu form a human barricade around one of the 32 acacia trees set to be cut by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH-7) for road safety and widening projects in Naga City yesterday. The advocates want the DPWH to find better ways to avoid danger rather than cutting down the trees that give fresh air and shade to the residents. (Juan Carlo de Vela)



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## Farmers may get 5 years in jail for brutal slay of dolphin

By **MARIE TONETTE MARTICIO**

**TACLOBAN CITY** - Two farmers may languish in jail for five years after brutally spearing to death a spinner dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*), locally known as lumba-lumba in Victoria, Northern Samar.

The accused - Eddie Millano and Fernito Gumarao - both residents of Brgy. Zone 3 of said town, were recently found guilty beyond reasonable doubt for violating Section 102(b) of Republic Act (RA) 8550 as amended by RA 10654.

The said law prohibits fishing, taking, catching, gathering, selling, purchasing, possessing, transporting, exporting, forwarding, or shipping out aquatic species listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Appendix II, where spinner dolphins are included.

Eyewitnesses also reported

that an individual chopped the dolphin's meat and brought it to his house in Sitio Karawisan of the same municipality.

The local government unit of Victoria, who initially responded to the incident, went to the house of the suspect to check and recover the carcass, but failed.

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR 8) regional director Juan Albaladejo, said the judgment scores victory in BFAR's intensified campaign on the protection of fisheries and marine resources in Eastern Visayas.

He added that the killing of rare, threatened, and endangered fishery species such as spinner dolphins is likewise a violation of Fisheries Administrative Order No. 208.

Violators will be facing imprisonment from 12-20 years or a fine of P120,000 or both.



## WB unit cites PHL's progress in banking reforms to fight climate change

BY CAI U. ORDINARIO [@caiordinario](#)

**T**HE Philippines is one of 38 emerging market economies that have initiated banking reforms to fight climate change, according to World Bank's private-sector arm, the International Finance Corp. (IFC).

In its second Global Progress Report of the Sustainable Banking Network (SBN), IFC said the Philippines is now on the formulating stage of its efforts to create a framework for green bond markets and lending portfolios.

Emerging market economies that are on the same boat as the Philippines include Thailand, India, Ghana, Fiji and Egypt. Other Asean countries, such as Cambodia and Vietnam are in the implementation phase, while Indonesia is considered a first mover.

"SBN members have demonstrated that transforming financial markets toward sustainability is possible," said Georgina Baker, vice president of IFC, World Bank Group. "Emerging markets are on the forefront of this shift—and SBN's tools and guidance have laid the groundwork for more countries to follow suit."

In a news statement, IFC said in the last few years, a broad range of initiatives linked to environmental and social risk management and green finance have been undertaken by the country.

IFC said this showed that efforts are being made by the banking regulators and banking associations to raise awareness, build capacity and encourage stakeholder engagement.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is currently drafting a policy framework for sustainable finance in response to growing market awareness and appetite for green and sustainable financing. The policy is targeted for completion by the end 2019.

"The capacity building and sustainable finance policy initiatives of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas were enriched by the knowledge resources, information and peer learning activities accessed through our membership in the Sustainable Banking Network. We are grateful to the International Finance Corp. for the continued support as we ramp up our efforts to implement our sustainable finance agenda," BSP Governor Benjamin E. Diokno said.

The reforms, IFC said, require banks to assess, manage and report on environmen-

tal, social and governance risks in their lending operations and put market incentives in place for banks to lend to green projects.

Of the 38 countries, 22 have adopted national sustainable finance policies and voluntary principles, seven of which were launched in 2019 alone.

The report also captures the progress made by 14 countries to actively grow their green bond markets; and data shows increasing innovation by financial institutions to green their lending portfolios.

"Ultimately, SBN is about collaboration," said Ye Yanfei, deputy director general of China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission and cochairman of SBN Measurement Working Group. "By bringing together regulators, policy-makers, trade associations and development institutions, SBN has been able to not only turn sustainable finance policies into action, but also strengthen measurement to capture market impact."

Established in 2012, SBN now represents 53 financial regulators and banking associations from 38 emerging countries committed to sustainable finance. SBN's member-countries represent \$43 trillion—or 85 percent—of emerging market banking assets.





## Bamboo blessing

MANILA – Part of a Bulacan cement plant's reforestation program for its mined areas is a training on bamboo farming for locals as their livelihood. The grown

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## Bamboo blessing

**From page A1**

bamboo can be sold to manufacturers for the production of flooring and furniture.

Bamboo has many other conventional and unconventional uses. Barrio houses and resort cottages made from bamboo are common. AAMBIS-OWA Party-list Rep. Sharon Garin has filed House Bill 3373 or the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Act which aims to increase bamboo production and use of the material for school desks and armchairs for public schools.

The Bambike company based in Intramuros, Manila handmakes bamboo bicycles and accessories with the bikes rented for touring the Walled City. In Bolinao, Pangasinan, a beach resort has a bamboo double-decker jeepney used for sightseeing.

The latest bamboo innovation comes from Darius Senillo of Lambunao, Iloilo.

Senillo is the 24-year-old leg amputee whose photo posted on social media on 8 October by netizen Sheena I. Gallego has gone viral with thousands of reactions to date. The photo shows Senillo aboard an Iloilo City-bound jeepney with an improvised prosthesis made from bamboo attached to his left knee to help him walk. Senillo himself made the device because he cannot afford the conventional artificial leg and because it is better than using crutches.

For Senillo's contraption, it won't be a prototype for bamboo prostheses for persons with disability. It's actually only temporary as he really wanted a conventional artificial leg.

The bamboo leg, however, will be a means to an end. Senillo is hoping someone will donate to him a conventional artificial leg now that many people know his condition through his viral photo.

And if luck would be on his side, that bamboo leg can bring more blessings as Senillo took the opportunity to ask netizens for help to have a livelihood and a house in Iloilo City so he no longer has to endure commuting to and from Lambunao.

**WJG**





**MALAKING** leksyon ang ibinahagi sa atin ng bagyong Hagibis na tumama sa Japan nitong nakaraang mga araw na ang huling araw nito ay kahapon lamang.

Unang tumama ang bagyo sa Japan nitong Sabado at nagpatuloy ito kina-Lingguhan hanggang humina ito palabas ng bansa kahapon.

Habang tinitipa ito, may 58 nang patay at wala namang pag-asa na matatagpuan pang buhay ang 16 nawawala samantalang may mahigit 100 ang nasugatan.

Ayon sa mga overseas Filipino worker, nakatulong nang husto sa lahat ang tuloy-tuloy na anunsyo ng pamahalaan sa lahat ng uri ng media na parating ang super typhoon at dapat na magtago ang lahat o pupunta sa mga evacuation center upang maging ligtas.

Ang masinsin at malinaw na impormasyon ang nagtulak sa lahat, lalo na ang apek-tadong 7 milyong katao na makapagtanda ng kung ilang araw na sakuna, kawalan ng kuryente, tubig, pagkain at iba pa.

Kung wala o kulang ang impormasyon, malamang umanong higit na malaki ang pinsala sa buhay at ari-arian.

### **PINAKAMALAKAS SA ILANG DEKADA**

Ayon sa mga Hapon, pinakamalakas umano ang bagyong Hagibis sa nakalipas na 25 o 60 taon.

Sa sukat ng mga Hapon, umabot sa isang metro ang haba ng mga ulan na bumagsak.

Bale pinagdugtong na haba ng ulan ng Ondoy at Yolanda na may tig-18 pulgada ang ulan ni Hagibis.

Mas mahina man ang hangin ni Hagibis na 252 kilometro kada oras kumpara sa 315-375 KPH ni Yolanda, super bagyo pa rin ito.

Nang magsama ang super hangin at super ulan sa Japan, anak ng tokwa, lumabas ang nakatatakit na resulta.

Ayon sa mga OFW, sobrang bilis ang paglala ng baha at napakabilis ang pagragasa nito kahit saan mula sa mga bundok at ilog.

Bukod sa nabanggit nang mga patay, nawawala at nasugatan, grabe rin ang pinsala sa mga ari-arian ng mga mamamayan at pamaha-



## **BAGYONG HAGIBIS HINDI IMPOSIBLE SA PINAS**

halaan.

Lumubog ang mga tren at iba pang sasakyan, umabot sa ikalawang palapag na bahay ang baha, nagiba ang maraming bahay at trensera o dike ng mga ilog, may mga landslide, huminto ang mga negosyo at transportasyon, nasira ang mga makinarya ng mga pabrika at iba pa.

Malalaman pa lang kung magkano ang halaga ng mga ari-arian na nasira ngunit sa tren lamang, umabot na sa P16 bilyon.

### **MABILIS NA AKSYON**

Sa mga ulat, mahigit 40 sasakyang panghimpapawid, lalo na ang helikopter, ang ginamit sa mga search and rescue habang pahina nang pahina at lumalabas sa Japan si Hagibis.

Sinabayan ang mga ito ng mga bangkang demotor na gamit ng mahigit 110,000 search and rescue personnel ng mga pwersang militar, pulisya, bumbero, volunteer at mga opisyal ng pamahalaan.

Ang iba, lumusong sa mga tubig dala ang mga gamit na pupwedeng pag-sakyan ng mga tao patungo sa mga evacuation center.

Gaya naman ng naganap sa Pinas, makaraan arig bagyo, naging masipag ang mga Hapon na maglinis sa mga naiwang bahagi ng kani-kanilang mga bahay.

Siyempre pa, kasama na rito ang mga OFW na nadamay.

Ang isang magandang balita, walang ganong nagsisiyakan dahil sa gutom at kapabayaang ng pamahalaan.

### **SA PILIPINAS?**

Anak ng tokwa, kapag naganap ito sa Pinas, gaya ng karanasan natin sa Ondoy at Yolanda, mga araw ang lilipas bago makakilos ang mismong pamahalaan at mga opisyal nito bagama't masisipag ang mga pulis, bumbero, military, non-government organization, Philippine Red Cross, media-men at iba pa.

Masisipag man ang mga ito, kulang na kulang ang mga ito ng kagamitan para mabilis na kumilos, kahit man lang sa pagkuha sa mga stranded dahil sa baha o paghahatid ng pagkain sa mga nagugutom at nasa malalayong lugar sa mga sentrong bayan.

### **WALANG ISKAM**

Ang isa pang nakalulungkot sa Pinas, tuwing may mga kalamidad, laging kabuntot ng iskam ang mga ginagawang pagtulong o sa gitna ng krisis.

May iskam sa parte ng mga negosyante na gustong magtaas lagi ng paninda nila dahil sa krisis sa suplay ng pagkain at iba pang pangangailangan.

Ang higit na nakasusuka, iniiskam at pinupulitika o inaangkin mismo ng mga opisyal ng pamahalaan ang mga tulong na lokal at internasyunal.

Isang malinaw na iskam ang pagtatayo lang ng nasa 37 at marurupok na bahay kapalit ng P741 milyon para sana sa matibay na 2,600 bahay para sa mga nasalanta sa Yolanda tragedy.

Hanggang ngayon, palaisipan pa rin kung saan napunta ang naipong P20 bilyong donasyon mula sa iba't ibang donor na internasyunal.

Sa Japan walang ganito kaya naman, nariryan ang pagkakaisa ng mga mamamayan, dayuhang naninirahan doon at pamahalaang Hapon laban sa mga kalamidad at rehabilitasyon o pagpapangun-balik ng normal na pamumuhay ng mga biktima.

Sana naman, kung may darating muli na mga trahedyang dulot ng Ondoy, Yolanda at iba pa, gaya ng kay Hagibis, wala na tayong marinig pang maaasamang balita ukol sa iskam.

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo, maaaring iparating sa 092284-03333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.