

DATE : 10-18-19

DAY : Friday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



Provide affordable energy, Du30 tells power operators

By MJ Blancaflor

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has urged power operators to provide affordable energy and protect the environment, as he asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Energy to monitor the compliance of power generation companies with existing laws and regulations.

He said this Wednesday night during the ceremonial launch of the San Buenaventura 500-megawatt coal-fired power plant.

“Let me therefore take this opportunity to encourage everyone, especially the people behind San Buenaventura Power, to look especially behind the aspect of power

generation,” Duterte said.

“And always keep in mind that beyond profits, your primary objective is to provide reliable and affordable electricity to our people,” he added.

In his speech, Duterte said he was pleased with the construction of the environment-

friendly power generation facility which is seen to help in the development of communities in Mauban, Quezon, and augment the power supply demand in Luzon.

He said the success of the facility is a “testament” to the potential of the private sector to help the government in addressing deficiencies in energy generation and distribution across the country.

Duterte also assured private businesses that they can pursue more effective and efficient business strategies as long as they commit to protecting the environment and ensuring the welfare of host communities.

The power plant is the first of its kind in the country as it utilizes a high-efficiency, low-emissions coal technology.



NWRB tightens water allocation

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The water level in Angat Dam – Metro Manila’s water source – is declining anew, prompting the government to reduce allocation for irrigation use and focus on domestic

consumption.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) said latest elevation in Angat was at 187.49 meters as of Thursday, lower than the 191 meters recorded at the end of September.

Turn to B4

NWRB... From B1

The current elevation, however, is still above the minimum operating level of 180 meters.

Considering the recent decline of the water level in Angat Dam, the Angat Technical Working Group has recommended to maintain the allocation for November of 40 cubic meters per second for the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

The 40 CMS was just returned last month from the 36 CMS allocated before. This, however, is still below the normal allocation of 46 to 48 CMS.

Allocation for irrigation, on the other hand, will be reduced to 17 CMS from the 30 CMS set in September.

NWRB argued that the main harvest season is already at the tail end, which means that water requirement is lower than the average.

“In the cropping calendar, you need more water at the initial part of the cropping season to irrigate farm lands but once the palay has already been soaked and is close to harvesting, lesser water will

be needed,” NWRB executive director Seville David said in a phone interview with **The STAR**.

“The water requirement is no longer that large compared with the last two months. This will help in the management of supply in the dam,” he said.

West zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. already warned of up to 18-hour daily rotational service interruptions because of the declining level in Angat and Ipo Dams.

“Ipo has a small watershed, although relatively smaller, where they get additional water but because of no rainfall in the past weeks, Maynilad solely relies on the Angat Dam,” David said.

The NWRB maintained lesser allocation is needed to preserve the dam’s water elevation so it could reach the target level of 212 meters by the end of the year.

“Based on our historical data, we would normally reach 212 meters. But we also have to be prepared in case we do not reach that level that’s why we are not increasing allocations,” David said.



Technical group recommends reduction of Angat Dam's allocation for irrigation

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The technical working group (TWG) on Angat Dam operations will be recommending a reduction of water allocation for the irrigation needs of farmlands in Central Luzon next month as Angat Dam's water level continues to drop on Thursday.

The TWG is composed of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and its concessionaires, National Irrigation Administration, National Power Corporation, and AHC Angat Hydropower Corporation.

It aims to sustainably manage the

water in Angat Dam to ensure that the year-end elevation is sufficient to supply the multi-requirements on domestic supply, irrigation and energy at least until the first half of 2020, NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr. said.

"Considering the recent decline of the water level in Angat Dam, the Angat TWG will be recommending to the NWRB to maintain the allocation for November of 40 cubic meters per second (cms) for MWSS and reduction for irrigation from 30 cms to 17 cms," he pointed out.

Angat Dam is the main source of 96 percent of Metro Manila's domestic water requirements and irrigation of about

27,000 hectares of farmlands in Bulacan and Pampanga.

However, David noted that NWRB is still managing water releases by not giving the normal allocation of 46 cubic meters per second (cms) for domestic water requirements.

As of Thursday, the water level in Angat Dam was slightly down to 187.49 meters from last Wednesday's 187.53 meters.

Angat Dam's level is still above the 180-meter normal operating level to be able to supply domestic and irrigation requirements but it is way below the 210-meter normal high water level during the rainy season.



Water Board to cut supply for irrigation

BY JORDEENE B. LAGARE

AS the water level of Angat Dam continues to decline, the allocation for irrigation may again be reduced, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) said on Thursday.

NWRB Executive Director Seville David Jr. said the technical working group (TWG) on Angat Dam operations would recommend lowering allocation for irrigation to 17 cubic meters per second (m³/s) from 30 m³/s for November.

But water releases for the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) will be maintained at 40 m³/s, below the normal allocation of 46 m³/s.

"The recommended allocation will be finalized with the board next week," David said, adding that the group would take into consideration the current level and rainfall projections for the entire year to come up with a proposal.

In September this year, the NWRB increased allocations for Metro Manila to 40

m³/s from 36 m³/s. Water supply for irrigation, which was previously suspended in May, was reinstated to 30 m³/s.

The NWRB functions as the chairman of the TWG, with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration; MWSS; National Irrigation Administration; and National Power Corp. as members. Meanwhile, the AHC Angat Hydropower Corp., Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. act as observers.

Angat Dam is the primary source of water in Metro Manila and adjacent provinces. It supplies about 90 percent of raw water requirements for the metropolis and irrigates about 28,000

hectares of farmland in the provinces of Bulacan and Pampanga.

As of 6 a.m. on Thursday, Angat's water level was at 187.49 meters, 7.89 meters above the minimum operating level of 180 meters.

But this is 24.5 meters below the year-end target level of 212 meters for the dam to supply water and irrigation requirements until summer.

The water allocation from Angat Dam is shared by Maynilad (60 percent) and Manila Water (40 percent).

On Wednesday, Maynilad urged its customers to stock up on water as the company may implement rotational water interruption services anew.

"*Madalang ang pag-ulan sa Angat at Ipo Watersheds, kayat unti-unting bumababa ang tubig sa Angat at Ipo Dams (Rain had been scarce at Angat and Ipo Dams, their water levels had declined),*" Maynilad said in a statement.

Maynilad services the west zone, which includes the cities of Navotas, Muntinlupa, Manila, Malabon, Makati, Las Piñas,

Caloocan, Parañaque, Pasay, Quezon and Valenzuela, as well as Bulacan and the cities of Bacoor, Cavite, Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, all in Cavite.

On Thursday, Manila Water said it might also implement rotational water service interruptions in the coming days.

"*Upang mapagkasya hanggang sa susunod na tag-araw ang limitado pa ring supply ng tubig, maaari pong kailanganin naming magsagawa ng karagdagang operational adjustments (We may have to make some operational adjustments in the coming days to maximize the still limited supply),*" the company said.

"*Kung kakailanganin po naming magpatupad muli ng rotational water service interruption sa mga darating na araw, magbibigay po kami ng abiso para makapaghandang aming mga customers (If we need to implement rotational water service interruptions again in the coming days, we will send notices to our customers),*" it added.



As city dries up, dam pushed

By Maria Romero

Water users in Metro Manila were recently flooded by an announcement of both Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Company Inc. of a possible rationing as a result of falling water levels at Angat and Ipo dams.

Consumers are wondering what is now causing the problem since the country

Both firms were placed in hot water after the Supreme Court imposed huge fines due to their failure to implement sewerage and water storage projects

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had gone through a number of typhoons that brought intense downpours the past few months.

The answer may partly lie in the push of the two water concessionaires for the construction of the P15 billion Kaliwa Dam that both are relying on to address the growing demand for potable water in Metro Manila.

Recently, both firms were placed in hot water after the Supreme Court imposed huge fines due to their failure to implement sewerage and water storage projects.

Maynilad corporate communications head and spokesman Jennifer Casipit-Rufo warned that a looming water crisis in Luzon is inevitable in the coming years unless the construction of Kaliwa Dam in Quezon province pushes through.

"We need an additional raw water source besides Angat Dam. Currently, we are also tapping Laguna Lake as an alternative source, but as long as the population continues to grow, an additional source will be required," Rufo told *Daily Tribune*.

More in pipeline

"Besides Kaliwa Dam, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has other water source projects lined up, all of which are intended to stave off any water crisis in the future," Rufo added.

Some lawmakers initially aired objections to the dam project over questions on the \$211 million contract with China and its effects on the indigenous

people's livelihood.

Upon its completion, the Kaliwa Dam in Infanta, Quezon will have a capacity of 600 million liters a day, while its water supply tunnel will have a capacity of 2,400 MLD.

It is expected to ease the load on Angat Dam, which supplies 96 percent of Manila's water demand.

We need an additional raw water source besides Angat Dam. Currently, we are also tapping Laguna Lake as an alternative source.

On Wednesday, Maynilad told consumers to stock up on water as they may experience rotational service interruptions due to the inadequate rainfall.

Not a crisis

"There is no looming water crisis. We just had to proactively warn our customers about the possibility of our having to implement rotational service interruptions given the scant rains that have been augmenting the supply shortfall owing to the still reduced allocation from Angat Dam," Rufo explained.

Currently, Maynilad is working to secure additional raw water sources to continue meeting demand from a growing population.

"The MWSS is working hard to get new sources developed for long-term water security and reliability," Rufo assured.

National Water Resource Board (NWRB) executive director Seville David Jr. yesterday also said water allocation for MWSS for November will only be about

40 cubic meters per second (m³/s) for November from the usual 46 m³/s.

Less for irrigation anew

David added that water allocation for irrigation, which resumed in September, will also drop from the usual 30 m³/s to only 17.

As a result, the technical working group (TWG) on Angat Dam operations recommended a reduction of water allocation for the irrigation needs of farmlands in Central Luzon next month.

The TWG is composed of NWRB, MWSS, National

Irrigation Administration, National Power Corp. and AHC Angat Hydropower Corp.

The group is tasked to ensure that Angat Dam can sufficiently supply the requirements of households, irrigation and energy at least until the first half of next year.

As of Thursday morning, water level at Angat Dam was 24.5 meters below the normal level of 212 meters, which is the target water level for the dam by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, Ipo Dam is at 100.76 meters, already below the 101-meter maintaining level.



Camarines Norte gov faces raps over quarry permit application

For allegedly sitting on an application for a quarry permit, a complaint has been filed against Camarines Norte Gov. Edgardo Tallado by the Anti-Red Tape Authority.

The ARTA charged Tallado with violation of Section 21 (e) of Republic Act 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business Law, saying Tallado failed to render government services within the prescribed processing time without due cause.

The governor must be held liable for violation of Section 21 (d) of the same law for failure to give the applicant a written notice on the inaction on his application, it added.

The ARTA said a certain Henry Zabala applied for a permit to quarry gravel and sand before Tallado's office on April 30, 2018, but the application remains pending.

ARTA director general Jeremiah Belgica said Zabala submitted all the necessary documents, including an environmental compliance certificate and area status clearance from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Belgica said Zabala also paid the required surety

bond as well as application and processing fees.

The ARTA said a review of the Citizen's Charter submitted by Tallado showed that the Camarines Norte provincial government sets an indefinite period to process a quarry permit.

Under RA 1103, the processing of applications or requests should not exceed 20 working days.

"Under the facts of the case, even assuming that Mr. Zabala's application is classified as highly technical and that processing time is 20 days, there is still a clear violation of the law since the last document submitted dates back to Nov. 13, 2018, way beyond the processing time required by law," the ombudsman said.

Early this month, a complaint was filed before the ombudsman against Nicolas, Batangas Mayor Lester de Sagun over his alleged unjustified refusal to grant a building permit to a private applicant despite the submission of the necessary documents.

— Elizabeth Marcelo

ARTA files raps vs CamNor gov

BY PETER TABINGO

A COMPLAINT for alleged violations of RA 11032 or the Law on Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service was filed against Camarines Norte Gov. Edgardo Tallado before the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday.

Complainant Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), represented by director general Jeremiah Belgica, accused the governor of inaction on the application of one Henry Zabala for a quarry permit within

reasonable time.

Zabala originally sought the help of the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission which referred the case to the ARTA which has jurisdiction over complaints on delayed action or refusal of service by a public office.

The ARTA said the applicant had complied with all necessary documentary requirements and paid the recommended fees but has not been informed whether his application has been disapproved or granted.

Zabala claimed the processing

of his application has been pending for over a year.

Last August 16, 2019, the ARTA notified the Office of the Governor to submit a written explanation within three days about the delay in processing to which Tallado replied that an opposition was lodged against the grant of permit to Zabala.

Likewise, the governor informed the ARTA that the applicant had been previously granted a quarry permit but failed to remit sand and gravel taxes from April 28, 2016 to April 27, 2017.

Zabala, in response, issued a sworn statement attesting to full compliance with the requirements, including payment of dues.

ARTA issued an Order of Automatic Approval in favor of the applicant that was served to Gov. Tallado by courier last September 26 which has not been implemented.

It said that under Section 21 (d) of RA 11032, Tallado was required to inform the requesting party if his application has been disapproved rather keep the applicant dangling indefinitely.

The looming water crisis of 2020



FINEX FILES

RONALD
GOSECO

THIS September, Manila Water Co. Inc. announced that despite the low supply allocation, it has been able to restore 24-hour water availability to 100 percent of its customers in the Manila East Zone with at least 7 pounds per square inch

(psi) of pressure. This pressure was enough to provide water at the ground floor of its customers. Starting from a 150-million liter per day (MLD) deficit last March to almost 350 MLD in late June, it has successfully narrowed the supply gap with the increased production in its Cardona Water Treatment Plant, the rehabilitation and construction of both existing and new deep wells, and a more efficient reduction of its system losses (NRW) from 12 percent last year to almost 10 percent. The NRW numbers are remarkable as global standards are almost twice this. Of course, the rains that filled up the dams had a lot to do with this achievement.

Is it time to rest and savor our good fortune? The truth is, the water crisis is far from over. In fact, the water supply situation remains volatile as Angat Dam is still struggling to fill up to the ideal 212-meter level by the end of this year to ensure that we would have sufficient supply to meet the peak requirements for next summer.

Let's go back to last summer. All of us are now familiar with the three dams that supply Metro Manila- Angat, Ipo and La Mesa dams. Angat is able to hold 4,000 MLD. Out of that capacity, 2,400 MLD was allocated for Maynilad while 1,600 was allocated to Manila Water. Due to the customer growth in the Manila Water Zone, the demand grew to an average of around 1,740 MLD. The deficit was supposed to be drawn from the La Mesa Dam but that practically dried up this summer. The shortage was exacerbated by the natural reaction of customers, when many of them started storing water around the clock. Many customers doubled their consumption during a time when the supply was critical. That reaction was never anticipated and it created a snowball of such horrendous effects.

Is there a way to prevent this from happening again next summer? Many believe that it will happen again, simply because the next major water source, the Kaliwa Dam, won't

be completed until 2023. Minor sources will simply not be able to stem the growing requirements of the metropolis.

The looming crisis has to be solved through drastic measures. One of the options is to price water as a valuable resource, which in fact it is, to drive true conservation efforts. Questions are being raised on why our water bills are a small fraction of our power bills. Is water really less valuable? Typically, cost is a function of supply and demand combined with the cost of production. We then add a mark up for profit as

well as government taxes; or in some instances, a reduction for government subsidies. Electricity is more expensive not because it is valued more but because it is more costly to generate and distribute. Furthermore, since water is a basic human need for survival, it is often kept artificially cheap either through government subsidies or in the case of privatized water franchises, through the control of investments under the rate rebasing process. In this process, rates are adjusted based on the investments necessary for the privatized franchisees to

deliver their service obligations. The theory in keeping prices low is to ensure that the poor don't die of dehydration because they cannot afford to buy water. Although one can keep prices artificially low by postponing investments, the unintended consequence will jeopardize the water service for the entire population, both rich and poor. This truly poses a dilemma for government, which has to weigh the cost/benefit of investments in water infrastructure, and its corresponding impact on costs to its citizens. It needs to walk

a narrow tightrope and keep its balance between a populist approach and a reality that requires investing for the future. It is inevitable that investments have to be made to meet future water requirements. It is also inevitable that water will reflect its true value and cost in the future. We simply have to find other means to protect the marginalized sectors of society by providing them with safety nets to ensure that we all survive the next water crisis.

Ronald Goseco is a Finex Foundation trustee



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Environmentalism is a right, not a privilege

THE Philippines for more than a century since the independence of our archipelagic nation, our national government and political parties have never truly considered the environment as a national concern and priority in the drive for economic development. It was only a decade ago, when the Philippine Green Party (*Partido ng Kalikasan*) came about, where after 12 long years, majority of the voting population of the Philippines might have never even heard of nor even knew of the existence of this "green" political group. The environment was never truly part of any famous politician's speech or political agenda, only to be construed upon on an electoral campaign by the Philippines' richest man, the former senator, Manuel "Manny" Villar, who ran for president in 2010 with his infamous political jingle: "*Nakaligo ka na ba sa dagat ng basura?*" A campaign that revealed the disparity in which poverty and the environment were being portrayed in society — that only poor people swim in an ocean of garbage and trash, that having a polluted living



INTO THE WILD

GAB MEJIA

environment is a trait of the poor.

Nine years after, amid the current state of the world with increasing environmental and socioeconomic conflicts and crises, a new question begs to be answered — is environmentalism just for the rich and privileged?

The Philippines being an archipelago will always be surrounded by ocean. But due to poor solid waste management systems and ineffective enforcement of environmental laws and policies, the country remains to be the top third plastic-polluting country in the globe, considering the sachet or single-use plastic culture and economy propagated around our cities. A modern pro-environment lifestyle bears down on consumers in the economic pyramid, who are pressured to buy P200 metal straws or to go vegan with higher food expenses in a country with an

average minimum salary of P537 per day in 2018 — a country where an increase of even a single peso a day could mean life or death for the majority of Filipinos. The inconvenient and unfortunate reality of claiming that environmentalism is a privilege of the rich, not only neglects the fact that people don't deserve to have a clean and sustainable environment; more so, it hurts the underserved communities and countries, who are the most vulnerable to such consequences of environmental atrocities as plastic pollution and the climate crisis. The problems of the environment have never been mutually exclusive in society, where in fact countries rich in natural resources tend to have greater economies like China and the US, but are being mismanaged or have been historically exploited by past colonialists or present-day corrupt leaders and governments, which is increasingly happening in the Philippines and some African countries like Zambia and Botswana.

Maybe we have to look at environmentalism not as a mere privilege or a status of society, but

as a measure of whether or not a country's rights are being respected by the choices and actions that are being made by our own leaders, businesses and politicians. And by understanding how, for centuries, indigenous communities and tribes around the world have coexisted with nature and the environment, and how through environmental officers and park rangers coming from the lowest income-earning brackets, who have dedicated their lives to protect the environment and nature, you come to realize how being an environmentalist was never a question of who gets to be one, but of choices and rights that every single human deserves.

You come back again nine years in time with that same infamous and controversial jingle: "*Nakaligo ka na ba sa dagat ng basura?*" (Have you ever swam in an ocean of trash?), and you realize today, whether from the Philippines to the Bahamas, from the Maldives to Australia — that we all are.

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PUSONG PANALO

ni **Atty. Jose Ferdinand M. Rojas III**

MULA pa rin sa pagtitipong naganap sa Colegio de San Juan de Letran noong ika-5 ng Oktubre, ang Sustainability Summit Manila, narito ang ilan pa sa mga payo at tips na maaari nating gawin sa pang-araw-araw na pamumuhay.

Hinihimok ang lahat ng kabahayan upang mag-segregate o maghi-

walay ng basura sa bahay pa lamang, bago pa ito kolektahin ng mga basurero. Mainam kung mayroong programa patungkol sa waste management ang bawat komunidad o barangay sapagkat malaking halaga ang maibabawas sa badyet ng pamahalaang lokal kung mayroon nito.

Kung kaya rin nating magtanim ng sariling

pagkain, kagaya ng mga gulay na madaling palakihin kahit sa mga paso lamang, maaari rin nating gawin ito. Mas maganda na sa kalusugan at kalikasan, makatitipid pa tayo ng malaki.

Ang tinatawag na upcycling ay ang paggamit ng mga luma o itinapon nang mga bagay upang makalikha ng bagong gamit na maaari pang mapakinabangan. Isang simpleng halimbawa ay ang paggawa ng shopping bag mula sa mga lumang t-shirts.

KILOS PARA SA KALIKASAN

Upang mabawasan ang ating itinatapong mga basura, tingnan nating mabuti ang mga bagay na balak nating itapon at pag-aralan natin kung saan natin maaaring magamit ang mga ito.

Ayon pa rin sa mga eksperto, kung tayo umano ay napaliligiran ng mga taong katulad nating mag-isip at may mala-sakit din sa kalikasan, mas gaganahan tayong ipagpatuloy ang mga pagbabagong sinisimulan natin. Kaya't hinihikayat ang lahat na luma-

bas at makipag-usap sa mga tao at grupong may ganitong pamumuhay upang magsama-sama at magkaisa tayo. Humingi tayo ng tulong kung kinakailangan at tulungan din natin ang mga nakikita nating nangangailangan nito.

Ang bawat isa ay inaanyayahang ipalaganap ang ganitong pamumuhay upang mahikayat din ang iba. Kailangang umaksiyon ngayon sapagkat maaaring huli na kung ang pagkilos ay ipagpapabukas pa.



Court halts demolition of buildings in Boracay

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@inquirervisayas

ILOILO CITY—The Aklan Regional Trial Court (RTC) has stopped the demolition of 10 residential and commercial buildings on Boracay Island that are purportedly encroaching on the beach easement.

In a two-page temporary restraining order (TRO) issued on Oct. 15, acting presiding Judge Ronald Exmundo of Aklan RTC Branch 7 directed the Malay town government to “cease and desist” from implementing the demolition orders covering 10 structures along Bulabog Beach at the eastern side of the island.

A TRO has a maximum duration of 20 days from the date of issuance unless a writ of preliminary injunction is issued by a court.

The order temporarily stopped the demolition of Aira Hotel, Ventoso Residences, Freestyle Academy Kite Surfing School, Kite Center at Banana Bay, Wind Riders Inn, Pahuwayan Suites, Boracay Gems, Unit 107 of 7 Stones Boracay Suites and Lumbung Residences.

The order was issued after property owners posted a P300,000 bond for the TRO in relation to a civil complaint.

On Wednesday, acting Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista recalled the demolition orders.

‘Noncompliant’

Sought for comment, Natividad Bernardino, general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group, which manages the rehabilitation efforts on the island, said they would comply with the court order but would seek its lifting.

She said the structures

covered by the TRO were among the 28 commercial and residential buildings which were “noncompliant” with the beach easement rule.

Boracay Island was closed to tourists for six months from April 26 to Oct. 25 last year to undergo rehabilitation.

A major component in the rehabilitation is the implementation of the “25+5-meter” easement along the beach. This is measured 25 m from the mean high water mark (the annual average of high and low tide levels) to the shoreline as beach easement. A stretch of 5 m is added for the beach path.

No structures are allowed to be put up within the 30-m area along the beach.

Structures that encroached on the easement along the white beach at the western side of the island have been removed by the owners or demolished by personnel under the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force during and after the closure.

Questioned

But several property owners on Bulabog Beach have questioned the demolition orders and the boundary measurements that purportedly show their violation of the easement rule.

They said they had invested on their properties and put up their structures after they were issued building and other permits and clearances by the local government and other government agencies.

Bulabog Beach, parallel the popular White Beach at the other side of the island, is quieter and known for water sports

Water sports enthusiasts, including expatriates, have put up houses and businesses in the area. INQ



NO ROOM, FOR ILLEGAL MINING SABI NG DENR?

THERE is no room for illegal mining in the Philippines," ito ang litanya mula sa press release ng tanggapan ni DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES - MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU (DENR-MGB) DIRECTOR ATTY. WILFREDO MONCANO.

Seryoso na raw ang DENR-MGB at prayoridad ngayon na mapahinto ang operasyon ng mga ilegal na minahan sa ating bansa lalo na yung mga nakasisira sa kalikasan at kapakanan ng mga komunidad.

Sa ilalim ng kasalukuyang administrasyon, inilunsad ng MGB ang NATIONAL TASK FORCE MINING CHALLENGE (NTFMC) noong January 16, 2018 upang itigil ang ilegal na pagmimina sa bansa.

"Through NTFMC, we aggressively apprehend illegal mining operators, as well as seize, confiscate, and dismantle their equipment, including blasting tunnel entrances or portals to the mining sites," pahayag ni MONCANO.

Ngayon aniya, ang NTFMC ay nagsisilbi na bilang ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE. Maliban sa ilegal na pagmimina, binabantayan na rin nito ang paglabag sa mga batas na may kaugnayan sa pagtotroso, agrikultura, wildlife protection, at iba pa.

Pero, hindi kaya kontra naman ito sa ninanais ni MGB MINING TECHNOLOGY DIVISION OFFICER-IN-CHARGE ENGR. TEODORICO SANDOVAL na hinihikayat ang mga ilegal mining operations na umanib o sumapi sa kooperatibang MINAHANG BAYAN... wow...e sigurado lalong dadami ang mga maliliit na mining operations, e magkakabutasbutas lalo ang mga kabundukan natin niyan.

Sa press release e may litanya si ENGR. SANDOVAL na... "We are now seeking to formalize the informal. We're pushing for them to join the Minahang Bayan. The process is also faster for them. This is to make sure that this is the best opportunity for them to become legitimate."

Ayun hehehe bibigyan na pala ng lisensiya ang lahat ng mga



QC joins Pasig River rehab campaign

The Quezon City government joins the campaign to save Pasig River, which is in line with the campaign to protect and preserve the environment.

The campaign to save Pasig River through culture and arts is spearheaded by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Philippine Education Theater Association (PETA), and the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC).

Students and officials from the city's 142 barangays participated in NCCA's "Taga-Alog 2019, Ilog Pasig: Sulong! Lusong!" that promotes Metro Manila's primary waterway as a space for cultural identity and collective memory by

elevating the campaign beyond awareness and capacity-building initiatives.

PETA actors and students of the Lucrecia R. Kasilag Senior High School performed plays depicting the river's rich history and the importance of waterway preservation.

QC Task Force Solid Waste Collection, Cleaning, and Disposal Services Management-Special Cleaning Section chief Manny Rios acknowledged the city is a "waste contributor" to the river, as most of the city's waterways flow towards it.

Rios said Quezon City is situated upstream of Metro Manila and the city has many rivers that can contribute to the pollution of Pasig River.

Alvin Murcia



BFAR hoists 'red tide' alert in Visayas provinces, Palawan

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has hoisted the "red tide" alert in several areas in the provinces of Palawan, Bohol, Western Samar and Leyte.

In its Shellfish Bulletin issued on October 15, 2019, Agriculture Undersecretary for Fisheries Eduardo B. Gongona, concurrent Director of BFAR, said based on laboratory tests jointly conducted with local government units (LGUs), shellfishes collected at Puerto Princesa Bay, Puerto Princesa City in Palawan; coastal waters of Dauis and Tagbilaran City in Bohol; Irong-irong, San Pedro, and Silang in Western Samar; and Cancabato Bay, Tacloban City in Leyte are still positive for paralytic shellfish poison that is beyond the regulatory limit.

As such, the public is warned against consuming all types of shellfish and *Acetes* sp., or locally called *alamang*, coming from these areas.

Meanwhile, fish, squids, shrimps,

and crabs coming from these areas are safe for human consumption but BFAR advised the public that they are washed and cooked thoroughly, and internal organs, such as gills and intestines removed before cooking.

Meanwhile BFAR said coastal waters of Cavite, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Navotas, Bulacan and Bataan, particularly Mariveles, Limay, Orion, Pilar, Balanga, Orani, Abucay and Samal, in Manila Bay, remain free from toxic red tides.

Las Piñas and Parañaque experienced a massive fish kill on October 9, while coastal waters in Cavite province, particularly Bacoor and Sangley Point experienced massive shellfish mortality on October 11, but BFAR assured that these areas are not affected by red tide.

Following the fish kill and shellfish mortality, the BFAR has advised stakeholders, particularly fishermen and mussel growers or farmers, not to collect dead fish or gather mussels to make sure they do not reach the market.

Other coastal areas not covered by the "red tide" bulletin issued by BFAR remain free of toxic red tides.



U.S., PH security forces join Zambo coastal cleanup

UNITED States and Philippine service members joined efforts to clean coastal and residential communities in Zamboanga City during the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day on Sept. 21.

More than 500 volunteers, including students, local residents, local government employees, non-governmental organizations, and Philippine and U.S. service members participated in the community clean-up activities on Boulevard Beach and Zamboanga City streets in support of ICC Day.

"We do this [coastal cleanup] to maintain a good relationship with the citizens of Zamboanga City, and to show the people that the Philippine Army not only fights to protect the people on the battlefield but also fights to improve our environment. Working with the U.S. Army is a big pleasure for us because they are kind and hardworking," said Cpl. Rolly Beninsig, 74th

Infantry Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Philippine Army.

"It was remarkable to see hundreds of people from various organizations working side-by-side to clean the community. The volunteers, to include our friends from Joint Task Force Zamboanga of the Philippine Army, showed their tireless effort and commitment to a cleaner and safer environment. Not only are we advocating alongside the people of the Philippines, but we're also amplifying our environmental conservation efforts on an international scale," said Staff Sgt. Allen Joshua, U.S. Army.

"All uniformed personnel and security sectors, to include Joint Task Force Zamboanga, are protecting our ocean. This yearly activity educates the people on how to keep the lakes, oceans, and tunnels clean. In addition, our information drives to inform the people on the proper disposal of garbage. The Philippine and United States relationship is strong and



we all support this activity," said 1Sg. Noel Pobla-cion, Chief Civil Military

Operations, Joint Task Force Zamboanga, Philippine Army.



GLOBAL WARMING: A LIFE AND DEATH WARNING

By Johannes Uriel C. Lapat

WHO would have thought that a slightly warmer global temperature could cause so much trouble?

Experts for decades have warned about our ecosystem being disrupted as Earth's temperature goes up the scale. Weather patterns will change and people will experience the extremes—unusually strong typhoons will get frequent, periods of drought will get longer, a month's worth of rainfall will come in a matter of hours. Water supply and food production will definitely suffer. Sea levels will rise as

glaciers and polar ice caps melt, endangering the lives of people living in coastal areas. Marine species may face extinction as the warming oceans become more acidic, or the levels of its dissolved oxygen decrease.

All living things therefore, at risk.

The earth's weather and ecosystems would be in better shape if the world's leaders could somehow limit human activities that contribute to the warming—by half a degree Celsius from now, instead of the globally agreed-upon goal of one degree Celsius, according to the Nobel Prize-win-



ning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Limiting the warming to half a degree Celsius from now means the world can keep a 'semblance' of the ecosystems that we have.

We are facing a dire situation. What we need to heat up is the collective resolve of people all over the world to adopt drastic measures in order to save our home planet.



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NAGBIGAY ng sampol para sa mga taga-Mega Manila ang malakas na lindol na tumama sa Cotabato kamakalawa.

Makaraang lumindol sa Tulinan, North Cotabato, nagkaroon ng sunog, nawalan ng kuryente, naparalisa ang ospital, may nagiba o nagbitak-bitak na mga bahay at naganap iyon sa dilim ng gabi.

Makaraan ang lindol, may batang namatay mismo sa loob ng isang ospital, may inatake sa landslide at iba pa.

Marami rin ang nasugatan habang lumikas ang mga tao sa baybaying dagat sa takot na magkatsunami.

Tiyak na milyon ang naapektuhan dahil mismo ang Davao City na may 150 kilometro ang layo mula sa pinagmulan ng lindol ay nayaning din nang husto.

Sabi ni Davao City Mayor Sarah Duterte, ngayon lang niya naranasan ang ganito kalakas na lindol.

LAWAK NG APEKTADO

Umabot ang lindol sa Davao del Sur na kinatalagayan ng Davao City hanggang sa Zamboanga City na nasa 630 ang layo.

Nasa gitna kasi ng Mindanao ang pinanggalingan ng lindol sa North Cotabato kaya lahat ng lalawigan ay nilindol din.

Siyempre pa, umabot sa Intensity 7 ang North Cotabato kaya malakas ang pagyanig dito.

Pero para makita ang lakas ng lindol na gaya ng sinabi ni Mayor Sarah, nakaranas ng pagyanig na malakas ang Davao City na intensity 5 lamang.

Ang intensity na tinatawag ay ang pagyanig na resulta ng lakas ng lindol sa pondo nito na kung tawagin ay magnitude.

Habang tinitipa ito, MAGANDANG HABILIN

Napakaganda ang habilin ni Inday Sara.

Sinabihan ang lahat niyang nasasakupan na sila na mismo ang magulat ng mga epekto ng lindol: sa kanilang mga istruktura, sa paligid, sa mga pamilya at iba pa.

It'y sa gitna ng kakulangan ng mga tauhan ng pamahalaan lokal



ULTIMATUM NI BENNY ANTIPORDA

LINDOL SA COTABATO SISIW SA THE BIG ONE

na dapat mabilis na reresponde sa mga nangangailangan.

Nangangahulugang higit na mas mabilis at mas malawak ang responde ng pamahalaan lokal kung magtutulung-tulong na ang lahat sa pagbibigay ng impormasyon sa mga kinauukulan.

Dapat lang na gawin ito dahil lahat ay apektado, maging ang iba't ibang relihiyon na karaniwang nagsisiraan at naghiwalay.

THE BIG ONE

Paano naman kaya kung maganap ang The Big One na magnitude 7.2 sa Kamaynilaan at sa mga karatig na lalawigan ng Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite at Laguna?

Gaano kaya kalakas ang intensity o pagyanig sa ibabaw ng lupa kung nariryan na ang The Big One?

Dahil konektado ang mga dam ng Norzagaray, Ipo at La Mesa dam at sakaling tag-ulan, paano kung magiba ang mga ito?

Ang Norzagaray dam lamang, tantiya nina Vice Governor Wilhelmino Alvarado-Sy na maaaring may mamatay na 100,000 katao sakaling magiba ang Norzagaray na may 30 metrong raragasang tubig.

Paano ang tantiyang sa mga lugar na kadikit ng bitak ng lupa ng The Big One na may 30,000-50,000 kataong maaaring mamatay?

Paano kung maganap ang lindol sa gabi gaya ng nangyari sa North Cotabato?

Paano ang mga mapaparalisang ospital, magigibang simbahan sa oras ng pagsimba, magigibang iskul habang may pasok, magigibang mga mall habang may sales, magigibang mga nagtataasang gusali na condominium na puno ng mga residente?

Paano ang mga magigibang LRT, madidiskaril na PNR, magigibang Skyway at iba pa?

Paano kung may tsunami mula sa Manila Bay

at Laguna de Bay at paano kung lilindol din ang bitak ng lupa sa Rizal na hiwalay sa The Big One?

Alalahanin na matapos ang lindol sa North Cotabato, nagkalindol din nang hiwalay sa Davao Oriental?

THE BIG ONE ANYTIME NOW

Sabi ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, magaganap ang The Big One sa ating panahon at maaaring maganap mismo sa mga oras na ito.

Pinagbabatayan ng Phivolcs ang kasaysayan ng bitak ng lupa na West Valley Fault kung tawagin na tuwing ika-400 taon, gumagalaw ito.

Sa nakalipas umangong 1,400 taon, gumagalaw ang bitak at nakaapat na ito.

Magiging panlima ang hinihintay natin dahil huling gumalaw ang lupa noong 1658 na mahigit nang 350 taon.

Nasaan na nga ba ang ating mga paghahanda?

Tayo mismong mga mamamayan, ano na ang mga paghahanda natin?

Ang pamahalaang lokal at nasyunal: Malakariyang, Kongreso, Corte Suprema, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, mga pulis, bumbero, militar, mga ahensyang Departments of Public Works, Health, Education, Transportation, Communication, Tourism at iba pa?

Paano ang paghahanda ng mga lokal na pamahalaan mula sa mga lalawigan hanggang sa mga lungsod, munisipyo at barangay?

Ayon kay Isko, hindi handa ang City of Manila laban sa The Big One dahil napakayamang lungsod ito.

Paano ang iba?

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



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



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NASA LARAWAN ang P30 million fossilized giant clams na nasamsam ng Philippine Air Force na nasa 2,000 kilogram. Kuha ni **VERLIN RUIZ**