

DATE : 11-11-19

DAY : Monday

**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



## DENR to hire 2,000 'estero rangers' to unclog waterways

By ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will hire at least 2,000 waterway or "estero" rangers to help address indiscrimi- ►10

nate waste disposal and improve garbage collection within their respective jurisdictions.

"We would like to impress upon the public that we really need to overhaul the disposal system in Metro Manila, make it efficient, and for the public to stop dumping trash into our waterways," DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, head of the inter-agency

Manila Bay Task Force, said.

Hiring estero rangers addresses the dumping of garbage in esteros. The DENR observed that the indiscriminate dumping of waste has been partly due to the non-collection of garbage from informal family settlers living in narrow alleys near esteros.

The DENR chief said that two

estero rangers will be initially deployed to each of the 711 barangays where there are alleys traversed by esteros and not reached by garbage trucks. These alleys are mostly populated by informal settler families.

Cimatu said he already gave a directive to look into the possibility of increasing the number of estero rangers to at least 2,000, so that four may be deployed to each barangay.

The estero rangers will be

endorsed by their barangay officials in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Under the contract, an estero ranger gets a monthly salary of ₱8,500 for a five-day work week schedule.

He or she is tasked to conduct the removal of garbage from esteros fitted with trash traps and house-to-house garbage

collection in selected alleys for transfer and storage at pickup points accessible to garbage trucks.

The estero rangers will be commissioned on November 15 at the DENR central office grounds in Quezon City.

At least 203 creeks and waterways traversing the 711 barangays will be serviced by the estero rangers.

# DENR to hire 2,000 *estero* rangers

By Rio N. Araja

**E**NVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu has given the green light to hire 2,000 *estero* rangers who shall help local government units within and near Manila Bay to address indiscriminate waste disposal and improve garbage collection.

Cimatu recently met with the agency's senior officials and assigned them as river commanders to oversee rehabilitation activities under the Battle for Manila Bay program.

"We would like to impress upon the

public that we really need to overhaul the disposal system in Metro Manila, make it efficient and for the public to stop dumping trash into our waterways," he said.

The DENR chief is the head of the

inter-agency Manila Bay Task Force.

According to Cimatu, two *estero* rangers per barangay would be initially deployed to 711 barangays where there are alleys traversed by *esteros* and not reached by garbage trucks.

He said these alleys are mostly populated by informal settler families. There are at least 203 creeks and waterways traversing the 711 barangays.

He gave a directive to look into the possibility of increasing the number of *estero* rangers to 2,000, so that four may be deployed to each barangay.

The *estero* rangers are to be endorsed

by their barangay officials in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Under the contract, an *estero* ranger gets a monthly salary of P8,500 for a five-day work week schedule, and is tasked to conduct removal of garbage from *esteros* fitted with trash traps and house-to-house garbage collection in selected alleys for transfer and storage at pickup points accessible to garbage trucks.

The *estero* rangers will be commissioned on Nov. 15 at the DENR central office grounds in Quezon City.



**GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY.** House Majority Leader and Upsilon Sigma Phi Alumni Association President Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez (center) share a historic moment with members of Upsilon Sigma Phi Batch 1969 during its 50th Anniversary Celebration Saturday night at the Grand Ballroom of Okada Hotel in Parañaque City. **Ver Noveno**



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# Malaya Business Insight



PAGE



UPPER

LOWER



PAGE 1  
STORY



BANNER  
STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

11-11-19

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## 'Estero rangers' to help LGUs monitor waste disposal

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu has approved the hiring of at least 2,000 "estero rangers" who will help local government units within and near Manila Bay to address indiscriminate waste disposal and improve garbage collection.

"We would like to impress upon the public that we really need to overhaul the disposal system in

Metro Manila, make it efficient and for the public to stop dumping trash into our waterways," Cimatu said in a statement.

He said that two "estero rangers" each will be initially deployed to 711 barangays that are traversed by esteros, not reached by garbage trucks and mostly populated by informal settlers.

The hiring of the "estero rangers" have been endorsed by barangay officials in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Under the contract, an "estero ranger" gets a monthly salary of P8,500 for a five-day work week schedule.

They are tasked to conduct

removal of garbage from esteros fitted with trash traps and house-to-house garbage collection in selected alleys for transfer and storage at pickup points accessible to garbage trucks.

At least 203 creeks and waterways traversing 711 barangays will be serviced by the "estero rangers."  
— *Jed Macapagal*



'SUWAG O SUKO?'

# Conserving tamaraws and empowering the rangers

**R**EPRESENTATIVES from different sectors came together to witness how the Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) and Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP) rangers risk their lives to protect the tamaraw (*bubalus mindorensis*), a wild buffalo found solely on the island of Mindoro in the Philippines.

The tamaraw is among the world's most endangered animals, considered critically endangered and just a step above extinction in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

To raise both awareness and funds for tamaraw conservation, the global Biodiversity Finance Initiative (Biofin) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) partnered with TCP, and a talented group of storytellers for a documentary, titled *Suwag o Suko: Saving the Tamaraw from Extinction*.

"*Suwag o Suko* is a love letter to the tamaraw rangers and everyone working in conservation. It was made with local audiences in mind because we want to instill a sense of pride, shared identity and ownership for our natural heritage," explained Celine Murillo, who wrote the script with director Mark Ace Gatdula and other pro bono volunteers.

The hour-long documentary examines the economic, social and cultural significance of the tamaraw and how its survival is invariably tied to the management of the MIBNP, its indigenous mangyan tribes, plus the continuous conservation efforts of rangers.

"Tamaraw Month is celebrated each October. We herald this unique, biologically important and culturally significant animal. We must spread awareness for conservation," said DENR-TCP Coordinator Neil Anthony del Mundo.

Canon Philippines, Tamron, Benro, Eco Explorations and the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation pitched in to make the film possible.

"One of Canon's major priorities among sustainability programs is biodiversity conservation, locally and globally. It is an honor to partner with DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau and Biofin to bring light to pressing issues surrounding our wildlife, particularly of endangered species like the *tamaraw*. We hope



**TAMARAWS** are endemic forest buffalo found only on Mindoro island in the Philippines. Numbering only about 500, they are considered critically endangered by the IUCN. GREGG YAN/BIOFIN

**TAMARAW** Conservation Program rangers Ed Bata and Ronnie Estrella inside the Iglit-Baco Natural Park. The two have over half-a-century's worth of field experience between them.

GREGG YAN/BIOFIN



to inspire millions of Filipinos to support conservation programs to help keep this species thriving in the wild," said Canon Marketing Philippines Inc. Vice President Anuj Aggarwal.

Nestled between Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, MIBNP hosts the largest remaining population of tamaraw at 480 heads, down from 523 in 2018.

A century ago, an estimated 10,000 tamaraws inhabited all of Mindoro, from coastal lowlands to its highest peaks.

In the 1930s, widespread cattle ranching spurred a deadly outbreak of rinderpest, which soon infected many of the island's bovines. The tamaraw population was decimated—by 1969, the number was estimated to have plummeted below 100.

The tamaraw population has rebounded to 480 heads within MIBNP—a far cry from the original 10,000, but a sure sign that TCP and MIBNP's conservation efforts are paying off.

Leading field conservation

efforts are two dozen TCP and about a dozen MIBNP rangers, who conduct park patrols, keep poachers at bay and dismantle animal traps illegally set up in strict protection zones.

Since its inception in 2012, Biofin has worked with both the public and private sectors to enhance protection for the country's biodiversity hot spots by helping secure funds to implement sound biodiversity programs.

UNDP Philippines Resident Representative Titon Mitra highlighted the importance of financing biodiversity conservation. He noted: "According to the latest UN biodiversity report, up to 1 million animal and plant species are on the verge of extinction. We are now faced with an unparalleled loss of biodiversity at an alarming rate. Now more than ever, we need to take a multistakeholder approach in addressing this crisis."

Biofin Philippines's second



phase runs from 2018 to 2022 and includes the implementation of finance solutions to raise resources for the tamaraw and other endangered species through creative crowdfunding and diaspora.

Tamaraw conservation for example, is now being considered for corporate social responsibility funding.

Under the DENR-UNDP collaboration, Biofin works to close the financing gap for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity by identifying, accessing, combining and sequencing sources of biodiversity funding to finance the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP), the country's roadmap to conserving its natural resources.

PBSAP's implementation will cost P24 billion a year, or P334 billion (\$7.4 billion at a low estimate) from 2015 to 2028.

However, public expenditure was estimated at only P4.9 billion a year (\$110 million), revealing an annual gap of almost P19 billion (\$349 million). Finance solutions addressing this gap have been identified and are presently being piloted by Biofin.

*Suwago Suko: Saving the Tamaraw from Extinction* is scheduled for nationwide screenings in the coming months, with possible international exposure through video-on-demand platforms. A national caravan shall follow the film launch to create additional buzz and catalyze support for tamaraw conservation.

Parties interested to support conservation either in-cash or in-kind can contact Biofin at [biofin.ph@undp.org](mailto:biofin.ph@undp.org).



## 'IKAW, AKO, TAYO ANG KALIKASAN'

**"IKAW,ako,tayo ang kalikasan kung kaya dapat pangalagaan natin ito."**

Ito ang tinuran ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) USEC Benny Antiporda sa harap ng aabot sa 10,000 runners na lumahok sa "Takbo para sa Kalikasan 2 na ginanap sa Malolos, Bulacan kahapon.

Nagtulong-tulong ang iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno sa pangunguna ng Department of Interior and Local Government, DENR,PCOO,National Youth Commission at ang pamahalaang panlalawigan na naturang proyekto para Manila Bay Clean Up.

Dinaluhan ito ng mga estudyante, pulis, mayor, opisyal ng barangay at pamilyang Bulakenyo na tumakbo sa layong 3K,5K at 10K.

Pinangunahan nina DILG Usec Marjorie Jalosjos, Antiporda, Bulacan Governor Daniel Fernando at naging panauhing pandagal Sen. Cynthia Villar.

Sinabi ni Antiporda na ang problema ay ang kultura ng bawat Filipino na plastik sa pagtatapon ng basura at hindi lang ang basurang plastic. **DICK M**





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

INDEPENDENT

The Manila Times

A7  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

CALL  
STORY

BATHER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11-11-19

PAGE 17

DATE

# 10,000 Bulakenyos join 'Kalikasan' run

IN support of the rehabilitation and battle for Manila Bay, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in coordination with the provincial government of Bulacan conducted a fun run dubbed as "Takbo para sa Kalikasan 2" held at the Bulacan Sports Complex in the City of Malolos on Sunday morning.

Takbo Para sa Kalikasan 2 2019 is in partnership with the DILG with the theme 'Philippines Run in Support of the Battle for Manila Bay' wherein some 10,000 participants (runners) joined the event supported by the provincial government headed by Gov. Daniel Fernando.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, Assistant Secretary Ramon Cualoping of the Presidential Communication Operations Office and Department of Education representatives also took part.

Sen. Cynthia Villar and the other government officials led the signing of message of commitment in support of the national government advocacy program for the rehabilitation and battle for Manila Bay.

"On top of the usual coastal clean-up activities in Manila Bay, Takbo Para sa Kalikasan is a nice initiative of awareness for the general public... It also provides



■ Sen. Cynthia Villar, together with Bulacan Gov. Daniel Fernando and Interior Assistant Secretary Marjorie Jalosjos, leads the signing of message of commitment in support of the national government advocacy program for the rehabilitation and battle for Manila Bay during the 'Takbo Para Sa Kalikasan' fun run joined by 10,000 participants held at the Bulacan Sports Complex in the City of Malolos on Sunday.

PHOTO BY FREDERICK SILVERIO

them with a good opportunity to get involved and, in their own way, be able to contribute," Villar said.

"Clean-up drive activities like this is our priority, we are not doing this for ourselves anymore but for the future generations, for our children and children's children," she added.

The event was spearheaded by

Jalosjos who aid she was overwhelmed by the huge number of participants who joined the fun run, which broke the number of runners who participated in the launching of Takbo Para Sa Kalikasan in the National Capital Region (NCR or Metro Manila)

She said the activity was conducted in Bulacan because it is one

of the provinces that contributes waste to Manila Bay.

Fernando said the fun run was good the health and the environment.

Red Cross Philippines-Bulacan chapter and the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office helped ensure the safety of the runners. **FREDERICK SILVERIO**



## Warriors sweep UNTV Cup 1st round

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources continued its hot streak, claiming the scalp of National Housing Authority, 87-84, to sweep the Group B elims of the 8th UNTV Cup held recently at the Pasig City Sports Center.

Paul Parreno outshone five DENR players who scored in doubles figures as he knocked in the buzzer-beating trey that shattered a 77-all count as the Warriors notched their fifth straight in the annual tournament for public servants.

Ed Rivera scattered 17 points to lead a well-balanced DENR attack while Melvin Bangal and Archie Gamboa added 15 each and Des Ayson and Ryan Abanes combined for 21 points.

Parreno chipped in 9 points for the Warriors who matched the record of Group A topnotcher and defending champion Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Meantime, former champion Philippine National Police kept its flickering second round hopes alive by downing GSIS, 94-63, thanks to

the efforts of Richard Villanueva and former University of the East player Olan Omiping.

With a 3-1 record, the PNP Responders need to hurdle their last

### Games Sunday

(Pasig City Sports Center)  
3 p.m. - Ombudsman vs PITC  
4:30 p.m. - Judiciary vs PNP

assignment to advance to the second round of the elims in the annual tournament organized by UNTV president and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

Department of Agriculture improved to 4-1 in Group A of the tournament offering P4 million to the chosen charity of the champion team by downing SSS, 99-79.

After the first round, the fifth and sixth placers of each group will be eliminated.

Already out of it are SSS and GSIS.

### First Game

DENR 87 - Rivera 17, Bangal 15,

Gamboa 15, Ayson 11, Abanes 10, Parreno 9, Lansang 8, Atablanco 2.

NHA 84 - Lustestica 27, Vitug 22, Mercado 16, J. Dizon 5, Prado 5, Alastoy 4, Tibay 3, Sumayang 2.

Quarters: 15-20, 38-34, 59-54, 87-84.

### Second Game

DA 99 - Casaysayan 24, Silva 18, Fernandez 18, Manigo 11, Dematera 8, Comeriase 7, Mastelero 6, Lim 5, Hassan 2.

SSS 79 - Quiambao 29, Aguila 25, Roman 14, Trinidad 4, Puno 3, Paclibare 2, David 2.

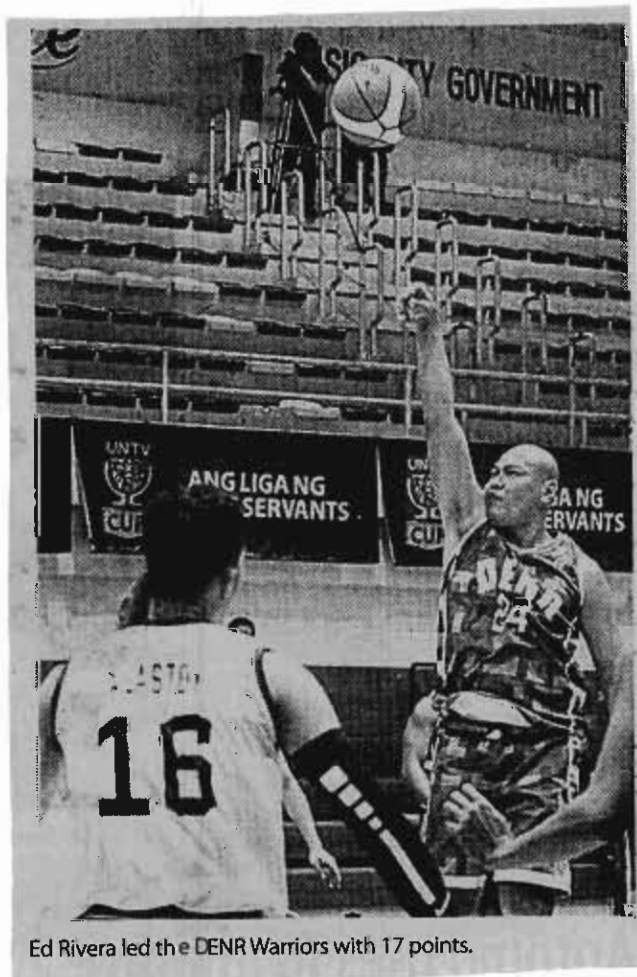
Quarters: 21-7, 47-33, 75-58, 99-79.

### Third Game

PNP 94 - Villanueva 16, Omiping 15, Tolentino 11, Serrano 8, Cabahug 7, Abaya 7, Misola 6, Cabrera 6, Nicolas 6, Aniban 4, Decena 3, Elope 3, Bayabao 2

GSIS 63 - Laurel 12, Nuyana 9, Gonzalez 9, Banzali 8, Cacatian 6, Ilano 5, Dela Cuadra 5, Gementera 3, Bunyi 2, Dorato 2, De Luna 2

Quarters: 28-9, 44-19, 64-44, 94-63.



Ed Rivera led the DENR Warriors with 17 points.



TITLE:

PAGE 17

DATE

## ***UNTV Cup: Warriors sweep 1st round elims***

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) continued its hot streak, beating National Housing Authority, 87-84, to sweep the Group B elims of the 8th UNTV Cup held recently at the Pasig City Sports Center.

Paul Parreno outshone five DENR players who scored in doubles figures as he knocked in the buzzer-beating trey that shattered a 77-all count as the Warriors notched their fifth straight win in the annual tournament for public servants.

Former champion Philippine National Police remained in contention by thrashing of GSIS, 94-63. With a 3-1 record, the PNP Responders need to hurdle their last assignment to advance to the second round of the elims in the annual tournament organized by UNTV president and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

Department of Agriculture improved to 4-1 in Group A of the tournament offering P4 million to the chosen charity of the champion team by downing SSS, 99-79.

After the first round, the fifth and sixth placers of each group will be eliminated. Already out of it are SSS and

GSIS.

**First Game**

DENR 87 - Rivera 17, Bangal 15, Gamboa 15, Ayson 11, Abanes 10, Parreno 9, Lansang 8, Atablanco 2.

NHA 84 - Lustestica 27, Vitug 22, Mercado 16, J. Dizon 5, Prado 5, Alastoy 4, Tibay 3, Sumayang 2.

Quarters: 15-20, 38-34, 59-54, 87-84.

**Second Game**

DA 99 - Casaysayan 24, Silva 18, Fernandez 18, Manigo 11, Dematera 8, Comerias 7, Mastelero 6, Lim 5, Hassan 2.

SSS 79 - Quiambao 29, Aguila 25, Roman 14, Trinidad 4, Puno 3, Paclibare 2, David 2.

Quarters: 21-7, 47-33, 75-58, 99-79.

**Third Game**

PNP 94 - Villanueva 16, Omiping 15, Tolentino 11, Serrano 8, Cabahug 7, Abaya 7, Misola 6, Cabrera 6, Nicolas 6, Aniban 4, Decena 3, Elope 3, Bayabao 2

GSIS 63 - Laurel 12, Nuyana 9, Gonzalez 9, Banzali 8, Cacatian 6, Ilano 5, Dela Cuadra 5, Gementera 3, Bunyi 2, Dorato 2, De Luna 2

Quarters: 28-9, 44-19, 64-44, 94-63.



### UNTV Cup: DENR in sweep

Department of Environment and Natural Resources continued its hot streak, claiming the scalp of National Housing Authority 87-84 and sweeping Group B elims of the 8th UNTV Cup held recently at the Pasig City Sports Center.

Paul Parreno outshone five other DENR players who scored in doubles figures as he knocked in the buzzer-beating trey that shattered a 77-all count as the Warriors notched their fifth straight in the annual tournament for public servants.

Ed Rivera scattered 17 points to lead a well-balanced DENR attack while Melvin Bangal and Archie Gamboa added 15 each and Des Ayson and Ryan Abanes combined for 21 points.

Meantime, former champion Philippine National Police kept its flickering second round hopes alive by downing GSIS 94-63, largely through the efforts of Richard Villanueva and former University of the East player Olan Omiping.

With a 3-1 record, the PNP Responders need to hurdle their last assignment to advance to the second round of the elims in the annual tournament organized by UNTV president and CEO Dr. Daniel Razon.

Department of Agriculture improved to 4-1 in Group A of the tournament offering P4 million to the chosen charity of the champion

team by downing SSS 99-79.



# Duterte to certify as urgent bill banning single-use

## Plastics

By GENALYN D. KABILING and  
CHARISSA M. LUCI-ATIENZA

**P**resident Duterte is likely to certify as urgent a bill imposing a ban on single-use plastic products in the country to ensure its swift passage in Congress. Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the President has expressed

support for the plastic ban to curb pollution and save the environment during a recent Cabinet meeting.

"The President has floated that idea. It's for the members of Congress to adopt it, use their initiative to have that kind of idea bear fruition," Panelo said in a radio interview.

Asked if the President will certify the bill as urgent, Panelo said: "Be-

cause the President supports it, it will not be surprising if he does."

The House Committee on Natural Resources has vowed to tackle pending measures seeking to ban the use of plastics in the country.

Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr., chairman of the panel, assured that they would immediately act on the bills, consid-

ering the negative impact of plastics to the environment and even public health.

"The Committee on Natural Resources will immediately convene to act on the pending bills pertaining to the ban on the use of plastic," he said in an interview after Malacañang announced that President Duterte is eye-



PRESIDENT DUTERTE

ing to impose a ban on the use of plastics in the entire country.

"We shall invite all the stakeholders including the Association of the Plastic Manufacturers in the Philippines and the government agencies involved in the legislation namely the DENR, DOH, DILG, and

the environmentalist groups whose advocacy is the banning and/or regulating the use of plastic," the House leader said.

At present, two bills seeking to ban single-use plastic are pending in the Senate. The measures have been filed by Senators Francis Pangilinan and Cynthia Villar following reports that the Philippines has become the world's third largest producer of plastic wastes that pollute the oceans.

Pending the passage of the plastic ban measure, the Palace meantime has called for the effective implementation of Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The President made the pitch for plastic ban days after he and other Southeast Asian leaders committed to step up efforts to combat marine debris pollution during a summit in Thailand. The leaders have recognized that marine debris remained a global concern and that regional collaboration must be intensified to curb ocean pollution.

Barzaga urged the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Education (DepEd) to actively launch campaign against the use of plastics, while Congress is flexing its muscles to pass a law against the use of plastics.

Bohol Rep. Alexie Besas Tutor earlier filed House Bill 47 seeking to ban single-use of plastic from all tourist and destination...



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

AG  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

RANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

11-11-19  
DATE

TO ENSURE PASSAGE

**MEASURE BANNING  
PLASTICS LIKELY  
TO GET PRIORITY**

**By Julie M. Aurelio**  
@JMAurelioINQ

President Duterte would likely certify as priority legislation a measure seeking to ban single-use plastics in order to ensure its passage into law, presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said on Sunday.

Panelo pointed out that Mr. Duterte himself floated the idea of a ban on single-use plastics in a Cabinet meeting to protect the environment and curb the effects of climate change.

"Since the President supports it, it will not be surprising if he does [certify the bill]," Panelo said in an interview over dzIQ.

There are two pending measures seeking to ban single-use plastic in the Senate, filed by Sen. Cynthia Villar and Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

In 2015, a report on plastic pollution ranked the Philippines as the third biggest source of plastics found polluting oceans. INQ



# Rody in favor of ban on single-use plastic – Palace

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte may certify as urgent the passage of a measure seeking to ban single-use plastics, Malacañang said yesterday.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo noted that the

President is in favor of a ban on the use of plastics, seen as one of the contributors of pollution.

“Let’s see if there are members of (the House) or the Senate who would push for that idea, but it is supported by the President so

it won’t be surprising (if he does),” Panelo said in a radio interview.

“The President has floated that idea. It’s for the members of Congress to adopt it, to use their initiative to have that kind of idea bear fruition,” he added.

The President expressed support for a nationwide ban on the use of plastics during a Cabinet meeting last week. The ban, which officials said could mitigate the impact of climate change, would require action by Congress. Senate bills requiring establishments

to use reusable materials instead of plastic are pending at the committee level.

Pending the passage of a bill on the use of plastics, Panelo said the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 should be implemented properly to prevent

further damage to the country’s ecology.

The Philippines is the world’s third largest source of plastic pollution, according to a 2015 report by the Ocean Conservancy charity and the McKinsey Center for Business and Environment.



11-11-19

TITLE:

PAGE 17

DATE

## Certify bill banning single-use plastic—Kiko

**T**AKING the cue from Malacañang, opposition Sen. Francis Pangilinan prodded President Duterte to certify an urgent measure that will enable lawmakers to pass the bill totally banning “single-use plastics.”

The senator stressed that a total ban on “importation, manufacture, and use of single-use plastic is an urgent matter and should be done immediately.”

Pangilinan pointed out that the Palace itself sent signals it was “eyeing such a ban.”

In a statement, Pangilinan pleaded for the Palace certification to enable the Senate and the House of Representatives to pass the urgently needed remedial legislation on second and third reading in one sitting, after which it would be promptly submitted to the President for signing into law.

“We appeal to the President to certify the bill as urgent,” the senator said, adding: “The world needs the ban on single-use plastic. And as the Philippines is one of the biggest producers of plastic waste, the world will benefit from such a ban.”

Pangilinan filed Senate Bill 40 as soon as the 18th Congress convened to “phase out single-use plastic products by prohibiting their importation, manufacture, and use in food establishments, stores, markets and retailers.”

He explained that the Single-Use Plastics Regulation and Management Bill aims to “ban the use of all single-use plastics starting one year after the effectivity of the measure and to penalize those who will not enforce it.”

The senator added that “those who will reuse and recycle will receive an incentive.”

According to him, prompt passage of the Single-Use Plastics Regulation and Management Bill will benefit the environment, adding that, “passing the Single-Use Plastics Regulation and Management Bill soon as possible is good for Mother Earth, the future, and our children.” *Butch Fernandez*





## Ban on use of plastics Congress task

MALACAÑANG said Sunday it was up to Congress to speed up legislation on banning single-use plastics, and days after President Rodrigo Duterte floated the idea.

Duterte said he was mulling over a nationwide plastic ban during the 43rd Cabinet meeting on Wednesday in response to environmental problems, even as he recognized that his plan would require legislative action.

"The President has broached that idea. It is for the members of Congress to adopt it, to use their initiative to have that kind of idea, Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said.

He made the statement even as Senator Francis Pangilinan said the ban on the importation, manufacture and use of single-use plastics was an urgent matter and should be done immediately.

"We appeal to the President to certify the bill as urgent. The world needs the ban on single-use plastic," Pangilinan said over the weekend.

"And as the Philippines is one of the biggest producers of plastic waste, the world will benefit from such a ban."

At the start of the 18th Congress, Pangilinan filed Senate Bill 40 seeking to phase out single-use plastic products by prohibiting their importation, manufacture and use in food establishments, stores, and markets.

The environmental group Greenpeace has called on the President to certify as urgent the proposed bills that would stop the use of plastic products.

Panelo said it would not be surprising if Duterte did so since he supported the idea of a nationwide plastic ban.

Two measures seeking the prohibition of single-use plastics have been filed by Pangilinan and Senator Cynthia Villar, but these proposals were still pending at the committee level.

Both bills seek to ban food establishments, stores, markets and retailers from issuing single-use plastics.

Single-use plastics include items such as grocery bags, food packaging, films and bags, manufacturing water bottles, straws, stirrers, containers, Styrofoam, cups, sachets and plastic cutlery.

In the House, Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. earlier filed House Bill 4724 seeking to ban single-use plastics from all tourist sites and destinations.

Pending the nationwide ban on the use of plastic, Panelo stressed the need for a stricter implementation of Republic Act 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The law mandates the state to adopt a "systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program."

"We have to strictly enforce it, so concerned agencies will be compelled to perform their respective tasks since our ecology is suffering, Panelo said.

Filipinos use nearly 48 million shopping bags daily, 16.5 billion smaller, thinner, and transparent plastic bags yearly, and 60 billion sachets annually, according to the non-government organization Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives.

The Philippines is the third biggest source of plastics dumped in the world's oceans following China and Indonesia, a 2015 report said. **MJ Blancaflor**

# Single-use plastic ban bills pushed

By Hananeel Bordey

The chairpersons of natural resources from the Senate and the House of Representatives are seeking to pass bills that will ban single-use plastic days after President Rodrigo Duterte opens the idea of its complete ban.

This was affirmed by Malacañang after presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said in a radio interview that the Chief Executive might certify measures banning single-use plastic as urgent.

"The President has floated that idea. It's for the members of the Congress to adopt it, use their initiative to have that kind of idea bear fruition," he said.

Panelo added that it will not be "surprising" if Duterte will certify the bill as urgent as the president has already expressed support on the ban.

Senator Cynthia Villar and Cavite Rep.

Elpidio Barzaga Jr., both chairing the Natural Resources committees in their respective chamber, vowed to tackle the said measures.

Bargaza committed to act on House Bill 0139 which is pending in House Committee on Natural Resources but suggested that there should be participation from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Department of Education (DepEd) while they craft the law.

"We will amend all the pending bills and is we need to introduce a new bill to address the problem on plastic but in the meantime, there are a lot of local government units that are implementing ordinances against the use of plastic," he said in a radio interview.

He said that the DILG should also craft a model ordinance to encourage LGU to implement the ban on single-use plastics adding that this should be considered as one

of the requirements before they qualify in the Seal of Local Governance.

Barzaga added that DepEd should also start teaching elementary and high school students the importance of the ban on single-use plastic.

On the other hand, Villar, who chairs the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, said that she filed Senate Bill 333 which will also include an amendment to the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

She said that the amendment will include how to deal with the single-use plastics. Likewise, she also emphasized that there should be an alternative to plastic that should be introduced to ensure the success of its ban.



# Palace hopeful on passage of bill banning plastic

MALACAÑANG on Sunday expressed optimism that Congress will take the initiative to pass a measure that aims to prohibit the use of plastic products.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo called on lawmakers to support President Rodrigo Duterte's intent to implement a nationwide ban on the use of plastic to protect the environ-

ment and promote a greener Philippines.

"The President has broached that idea. It is for members of Congress to adopt it, to use their initiative to have that kind of idea," the Palace official said in a radio interview.

Duterte floated the idea of imposing a ban on plastic last week.

On Friday, environmental group Greenpeace called on the

President to certify as urgent a proposed legislation that will stop the use of plastic products.

Panelo guaranteed that any legislative measure banning the use of plastic products would get the support of the President.

"Tingnan natin kung merong miyembro ng Kongreso, ng Senado na magpausad ng ganyang idea (Let's see if there are members of the House of

Representatives and the Senate who will push for such idea)," he said.

There are several measures seeking a ban on single-use plastic products pending in Congress.

While the government has yet to enact a nationwide ban on the use of plastic bags, Panelo stressed the need for stricter implementation of Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the "Solid Waste Manage-

ment Act of 2000."

RA 9003 mandates the State to adopt a "systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program."

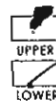
The Philippines is the third-biggest source of plastic dumped in the world's oceans, following China and Indonesia, according to a 2015 report by international group Ocean Conservancy and McKinsey Center for Busi-

ness and Environment.

The Philippines also uses a "shocking" amount of single-use plastic, based on the report by non-government organization Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives.

The report revealed that Filipinos use nearly 48 million shopping bags daily, 16.5 billion transparent plastic bags yearly and 60 billion sachets annually.

PNA



11-11-10

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1/ \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Rody to certify bill banning plastics as urgent measure

President Duterte is likely to certify as urgent a bill imposing a ban on single-use plastic products in the country to ensure its swift passage in Congress.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said the President has expressed support for the plastic ban to curb pollution and save the environment during a recent Cabinet meeting.

"The President has floated that idea. It's for the members of Congress to adopt it, use their initiative to have that kind of idea bear fruition," Panelo said.

Asked if the President will certify the bill as urgent, Panelo said: "Tingnan natin kung mayroon ng miyembro ng Kongreso o Senado na magpa-usad ng ideya. Dahil suportado na ni Presidente, di hindi kata-taka."

The President made the pitch for plastic ban days after he and other Southeast Asian leaders committed to step up efforts to combat marine debris pollution during a summit in Thailand. The

leaders have recognized that marine debris remained a global concern and that regional collaboration must be intensified to curb ocean pollution.

At present, two bills seeking to ban single-use plastic are pending in the Senate. The measures have been filed by Senators Francis Pangilinan and Cynthia Villar, following reports that the Philippines has become the world's third largest producer of plastic wastes that pollute the oceans.

Pending the passage of the plastic ban measure, the Palace meantime has called for the effective implementation of Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The law, which sets guidelines and targets for solid waste avoidance and volume reduction through recycling and environment-friendly disposal, aims to ensure the protection of public health and environment. **(Genelyn Kabiling)**



## Ban sa single use plastic gawing urgent

MALAKI ang posibilidad na sertipikahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte bilang urgent bill ang pag-ban sa paggamit ng plastic sa bansa.

Nabatid na inihayag ni Duterte ang ideya sa cabinet meeting noong Miyerkoles para mabigyan ng proteksiyon ang kapaligiran.

"Tingnan natin kung merong miyembro ng Kongreso o Senado na magpausad ng ganyang idea. Dahil suportado na

ni Presidente, eh 'di hindi kataka-taka," ayon kay Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo nang hingan ng reaksyon.

Nabatid na sa Senado ay iniakda ni Senator Senator Cynthia Villar, ang Senate Bill No. 333, na humihiling na i-regulate ang manufacturing, importation, at paggamit ng single-use plastic products.

Sa ilalim ng batas, ipagbabawal ang paggamit ng plastic pam-

balot sa mga pagkain, tindahan, palengke at mga retailers.

"We appeal to the President to certify the bill as urgent. The world needs the ban on single-use plastic. And as the Philippines is one of the biggest producers of plastic waste, the world will benefit from such a ban," apela naman ni Senador Francis Pangilinan. **(Juliet de Loza-Cudia/Prince Golez/Dindo Matining)**





# Giyera sa plastic sinindiha ni Duterte

Umaasa ang Malacañang na susuportahan ng mga mambabatas sa dalawang kapulungan ng Kongreso ang pagpapatibay ng batas laban sa paggamit ng plastic sa buong bansa ngayong mismong ang Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na ang nagsusulong nito.

Ito'y matapos banggitin ni Pangulong Duterte sa pulong ng kanyang gabinete noong Miyerkoles ang pagpapatupad ng plastic ban nationwide.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo na anumang panukalang batas na magbabawal sa paggamit ng plastic ay susuportahan ng Pangulo.

"Tingnan natin kung merong miyembro ng Kongreso, ng Senado na magpausad ng ganyang ideya," ani Panelo.

"Dahil suportado na ni Presidente, hindi na kataka-taka," dagdag ng kalihim nang matanong kung sesertipikahan ng Pangulo ang panukalang batas para sa

plastic ban nationwide.

Nabatid naman na mayroon nang mga naunang panukala na inihain sa dalawang kapulungan ng Kongreso hinggil sa pagbabawal ng single-use plastic pero nasa committee level pa ang mga ito.

Pangatlo ang Pilipinas sa pinakamalaking source umano ng plastic waste sa karagatan, kasunod ng China at Indonesia, ayon sa 2015 joint report ng Ocean Conservancy at McKinsey Center for Business Environment.

Isa rin umano ang Pilipinas sa pinakamaraming gumamit ng single-use plastic batay sa report ng Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives.

Ayon sa report, nasa 48 milyong shopping bag ang ginagamit ng mga Pinoy kada araw; 16.5 bilyon transparent bag kada taon; at 60 billion ng mga sachet.

Nabatid naman na produkto ng mga multinational corporation at mga food company ang mga basurang plastic na narekober sa isinagawang clean-up driver ng grupong Ocean Care sa Sabang Beach, Balert, Aurora kamakailan.

Nangunguna sa listahan ng mga basurang plastic na naipon sa clean-up drive ay mga produktong gawa ng Coca-Cola Bottlers, Procter & Gamble, at Universal Robina Corporation (URC) ng mga Gokongwei.

Kabilang din sa listahan ang Nestle Philippines, Monde Nissin Corp.-MCEmpire Inc. ni Betty Ang, JC. Foo Corp (gumagawa ng Ding Dong) ni Jacinto Ng, Jack 'n Jill Treats ng URC, Nature's Spring Water5 ni Danilo Lua, Liwayway Marketing Corp. (gumagawa ng Oishi) ni Carlos Chan, at Rebisco. **(Juliet de Loza-Cudia/PNA)**



11-11-19

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

**FOR THE RECORD**

# Plastic ban seryosohin



**Jeany  
Lacorte**

TWITTER: @lacorte\_jen

Sa wakas ay nanggaling na rin mismo kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang pagsulong na magpatupad ng ban sa paggamit ng plastic. Bagama't single-use

ang pinag-uusapan sa isinulong na panukala sa Senado magandang simula na rin ito.

Tatal ay isinusulong na ang pagbabawal na gumamit ng plastic, dapat wala nang kondisyones. Total ban na ang ipatupad kung pangangalaga at proteksyon sa climate change ang hangad ng gobyerno.

Sa ngayon kasi ay may mga local government unit ang nagpatupad ng plastic ban pero hindi natin nakikita ang tagumpay nito.

Ito ay dahil sa pagiging maluwag ng mga

pamilihan sa kanilang mga customer.

Kapag walang dalang sisidlan si customer ng kanyang mga pinamili ay aalukin lamang ito ni cashier kung saan niya gustong ilagay ang kanyang binili.

Oo nga't may choice kung plastic o paper bag ang lalagyan kanya lang isa rin sa choice na ibinibigay ay plastic kapalit nga lamang ng P2 bawat isa.

Kung ganitong sistema ang ipatutupad, walang epektong idudulot ang plastic ban ng mga local government

unit dahil dagdag kita lang sa kanila ito — sa LGU at sa mall owner dahil nga sa usapang may porsiyento si city hall sa kikitain sa bentahan ng plastic.

Ibig sabihin, imbes na maging dagdag gastos sa mga pamilihan ang panukalang plastic ban ay dagdag kita ito sa kanila. Bakit kanyo? Dahil ang dating inililibre nilang lagayan sa mga mamimili ay may bayad na.

May ilan namang pamilihan ang nagkukusa katulad ng pagbibigay ng paper bag pero hindi

ito sapat kung mga babasagin ang bibilhin mo.

Kaya sana sa pagsasabatas ng plastic ban ay ikunsidera ng mga mambabatas ang tunay na hangarin ng batas — ang proteksyon sa climate change at para rin matuto ang publiko na magbitbit ng sisidlan ng mga ipamimili tuwing pupunta sa mga supermarket o department store.

Kailangan ay tulungan sa usaping ito upang sa gayon ay makamit natin ang hangaring mapangalagaan ang ating kalikasan.



NAPAKAGANDA ng naisip ni Pangulong Duterte na ipagbawal na sa bansa ang paggamit ng mga plastik.

Sa isang Cabinet meeting, sinabi ng Pangulo na pinag-iisipan niya na ibawal na ang mga plastik matapos itong maangkat dahil sa presentasyon ng Natural Development Corp. ukol sa programa ng pamahalaan para sa environment at climate change.

Nabahala mismo ang Pangulo sa masamang dulot ng plastic pollution, hindi lang sa ating bansa kundi sa buong mundo.

Plastic pollution ang sumisira sa ating kapaligiran, partikular sa karagatan.

Ang usok mula sa mga pabrika ng plastik ang nagpaparumi sa hangin.

Ang mga bagay na gawa naman sa plastik, kapag itinapon nang wala sa ayos ay napupunta kung saan-saan at nagreresulta ng pagbabara ng mga daluyan ng tubig o esteró.

Ang kasunod nito ay pagbaha sa pagdating ng malalakas na ulan.

Sinisira nito maging ang mga lamang-dagat.

Nakakain ito ng mga isda, kabilang ang mga balyena na nagiging sanhi ng kanilang pagkamatay.

Dahil sa plastik, nababawasan ang huli ng mga mangingisda.

Apektado ang kanilang kabuhayan at ng kanilang mga pamilya.

Sa ulat, ang Pilipinas ay ikatlo sa mga bansa sa Asia na maraming plastik na basura.

Nangunguna ang China at pumapangalawa ang Indonesia.

Patunay na maraming basurang plastik sa karagatan ng Pilipinas ay ang mga nakukuha sa Manila Bay, lalo na kapag may bagyo.



## BAWAL ANG PLASTIK

Ang basurang itina-pon ng mga walang disiplinang tao ay ibinabalik sa mga baybayin.

Hindi lang napapansin ng marami sa atin, ang karagatan ay gumaganti sa mga tao sa kanilang kababuyan.

Kaya kapag nagagalit ang karagatan, marami ang namamatay.

Base sa pag-aaral na ginawa, tinatayang 437 milyon hanggang 8.3 bilyong plastik ang inaanod sa mga coastline sa buong mundo.

Mahalagang masolusyonan kung paano mawawakasan ang suliranin sa plastic pollution.

Dapat magkaisa ang mundo na ipagbawal ang paggamit ng plastic.

Sinisimulan na ito sa ilang bansa, gaya ng Thailand.

Sa halip na plastik bilang sisidlan ng mga gulay at iba pang grocery items, dahon ng saging ang kanilang ginagamit.

Sa Pilipinas, ibinabawal na ang mga plastik subalit lumilitaw na ang kampanya ay ningas-cogon lamang.

Hindi sineseryoso. Ang dami pa ring pabrika, lalo ng mga pagawaan ng sirsira na gumagamit ng plastik.

Maraming salamat at napansin na ni Pangulong Duterte ang problema sa mga plastik.

Sana nga ay magtuloy-tuloy ito at siya'y tungkulan ng mga mambabatas na lubusan nang maipagbawal ang mga plastik.

@@@

Isa tayo sa umaasa na sana nga ay magtagumpay si Vice Presi-

dent Leni Robredo sa kampanya laban sa illegal drugs.

Sabi nga ng Malakanyang, ang kanyang tagumpay ay tagumpay nating lahat.

Maraming buhay at pamilya ang sinisira ng droga.

Pabor tayo sa kanyang iginiit na maglagay ng body camera ang mga police operative sa tuwing magsasagawa ng operasyon laban sa sindikato ng droga.

Layon nito na huwag magpagdudahan ang mga pulis kapag sila ay may napapatay na suspek at nahuhuling droga sa kanilang operasyon.

Nunit hindi tayo pabor sa nais ni Robredo na itigil ng pulisya ang "Oplan Tokhang" na para sa atin ay naging matagumpay sa pagsuko at paglipol ng mga drug suspect.

Ang "Tokhang" ay isang estratehiya upang matukoy kung sino-sino ang mga sangkot sa droga sa bawat komunidad.

Wala naman kasing aamin na sila ay gumagamit o nagtutulak ng shabu. Pero sa tulong ng "Tokhang", ang mga adik at tulak ay nagsililitaw. Kaya naman sa takot ng marami na makulong kapag nahuli sa buy-bust, nagsisisuko sila para sumailalim sa rehab.

Kung may napapatay sa "Tokhang", sila'yung mga talamak na talaga sa paggamit at napraning na sa paggamit ng droga na nanlaban.

Ang mga praning na ito kung 'di masasawata, baka sila pa ang makapatay sa inyo isang araw.





Editorial

## Plastic pollution ang kalaban ngayon

**N**AIS ni President Duterte na ipagbawal ang paggamit ng plastic. Ang ideya para ipagbawal ang paggamit ng plastic ay biglang naisip ng Presidente habang nakikipag-meeting sa mga pinuno ng Natural Resources Development Corporation (NRDC) noong nakaraang linggo. Sa isang presentation ng NRDC ukol sa programa ng gobyerno para sa environment at climate change, biglang nasabi ng Presidente na balak niyang ipagbawal ang paggamit ng plastic sa buong bansa.

Napakaganda at napakamakabuluhan kung itutuloy ng Presidente ang balak. Panahon na para mawala sa buhay ng tao ang plastic. Plastic pollution ang kalaban ngayon ng sangkatauhan. Hindi lamang ang Pilipinas ang may problema sa plastic kundi buong mundo na. Sinisira ng plastic pollution ang kapaligiran at ganundin naman ang mga lamandagat na pawang namamatay.

Dahil sa pagtatapon ng basurang plastic, humahantong sa dagat ang mga ito at pinarurumi ang



tubig. Nakakain ng mga isda kabilang ang mga balyena ang mga plastic at iba pang hindi natutunaw. Marami nang nabalitang balyena na sumadsad sa dalampasigan at namatay. At nang suriin kung ano ang ikinamatay ng mga ito, napag-alaman na dahil sa mga nakaing plastic na basura. Nakuha sa bituka ng mga kawawang balyena ang mga plastic na shopping bags, sako ng bigas at iba pa.

Ang Pilipinas ay ikatlo sa mga bansa sa Asia na maraming plastic na basura. Nangunguna ang China at pumapangalawa ang Indonesia. Katibayan na maraming basurang plastic sa karagatan ng Pilipinas ay ang mga nakukuha sa Manila Bay na kasalukuyang nililinis.

Sa pag-aaral na ginawa, tinatayang 437 million hanggang 8.3 billion plastics ang inaanod sa mga coastline sa buong mundo. Sa baybaying dagat ng America, tinatayang 7.5 million plastics ang nakatambak at maski ang mga namumuno roon ay problemado sa mga basurang plastic.

Iisa ang solusyon para mawakasan ang problema sa plastic pollution. Magkaisa ang mga bansa na ipagbawal ang paggamit ng plastic. Sa Bangkok, Thailand ipinatutupad na ang pagbabawal sa paggamit ng plastic na lalagyan ng mga gulay, prutas, at pagkain. Sa halip na plastic, dahon o saha ng saging ang ginagamit.

Ipagbawal ang paggamit ng mga plastic. Iligtas ang bansa sa plastic pollution. Nararapat nang simulan ang pakikipaggyera sa plastic.



## Panukalang plastic ban, pinaaapura

Hiniling ni Senador Francis Pangilinan sa Malacañang na sertipikahan bilang "urgent" ang balak nilang pagbabawal ng importasyon ng plastic.

"We appeal to the President to certify the bill as urgent. The world needs the ban on single-use plastic. And as the Philippines is one of the biggest

producers of plastic waste, the world will benefit from such a ban," sabi ng senador.

Inilabas ang panawagan matapos na ihayag ng Palasyo na balak nila itong ipagbawal nitong nakalipas na Linggo.

Naung ng inihain ni Pangilinan ang Senate Bill 40 na naglalayong tanggalin na ang "single use plastic products" sa

mga food establishment, tindahan, at mga mangangalakal.

"Ang agarang pagpasa ng Single-Use Plastics Regulation and Management Bill ay makakabuti kay Inang Kalikasan, sa kinabukasan, at sa ating mga anak," ayon pa sa kanya.

**Leonel M. Abasola**



## Plastic ban, posibleng i-certify bilang urgent –Palasyo

Posibleng i-certify bilang urgent ni Pangulong Duterte ang panukala hinggil sa pagbabawal ng single-use plastic products sa bansa, upang masiguro na mabilis itong maipapasa sa Kongreso.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo, na suportado ng Pangulo ang pagpapatupad ng nationwide plastic ban upang mabawasan ang polusyon at maisalba ang kalikasan.

"The President has floated that idea. It's for the members of Congress to adopt it, use their initiative to have that kind of idea bear fruition," pahayag ni Panelo sa isang panayam.

Dagdag pa ni Panelo, "Tingnan natin kung mayroon ng miyembro ng Kongreso o Senado na magpa-usad ng ideya. Dahil suportado na ni Presidente, o di hindi kata-taka."

Iminungkahi ng Pangulo ang plastic ban ilang araw matapos mangako siya kasama ang iba pang lider ng ASEAN para sa pagsisikap upang malabanan ang "marine debris pollution", sa ginanap na summit kamakailan sa Thailand. Kinikilala ng mga lider na nananatiling "global concern" ang marine debris at kailangan ng pinaigting na paglaban sa polusyon sa karagatan.

Sa kasalukuyan, may dalawang panukala na nakahain sa Senado

hinggil sa ban ng mga single-use plastic. Ito ay inihain nina Senator Francis Pangilinan at Cynthia Villar, kasunod ng mga ulat na ikatlo na ang Pilipinas sa largest producer of plastic wastes sa buong mundo.

Habang naakasalang pa sa Kongreso, nanawagan muna ang Palasyo para sa epektibong implementasyon ng Republic Act No. 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"Siguro dapat ipatupad na natin ng maayos para kung ano dapat trabahuhin ng ahensya, gawin na nila kasi naapapektuhan ang ating ecology," ani Panelo.

**Genalyn D. Kabilig**



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

11-11-19

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

## P1M raw plastics seized in Clark

**CLARK FREEPORT ZONE**—Operatives of the Task Force Aguilá (TFA) intercepted a container truck with some P1 million worth of plastics at the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) gate on Saturday.

Arnel Maguillo, of TFA, said they were informed that the van carrying at least 10 tons of plastic scrap materials was about to leave the free port without proper documents.

Jeolyn Salmoro went to the TFA office claiming she owns the seized materials. However, she failed to show proper documents and she has no accreditation from the Clark Dev't Corp. **Bernard Galang**



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

11-11-19  
DATE

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

# 'Pinas lubhang delikado sa Climate Change' - Salceda

Sa magkakahiwalay na ulat kamakailan ng United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) at Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), sinasabing mataas ang puwesto ng Pilipinas sa mga bansang delikado sa banta ng masamang panahon dulot ng 'cli-

mate change'.

Ayon kay Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, House Ways and Means Committee chairman at pangunahing may-akda ng panukalang Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) bill sa Kamara na nasa Senado na, dapat maging handa ang bansa sa babalang ito lalo na sa pagtaya ng mapaminsalang mga bagyo na sadyang ka-

ilangan ng isang mabisang 'disaster resilience program.'

Inaasahang maipapasa ng Senado ang bill bago dumating ang Pasko.

Sa panukalang DDR, isasailalim dito bilang 'attached agencies' ang Philippine Astronomical

Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration at ang Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) na bahagi ngayon ng Department of Science and Technology (DOST) bukod sa ilan pang mga tanggapan upang magkaka-

tugma at mabisang magampanan nila ang mga gawaing kaugnay sa pagsuri at pagbigay ng tamang babala tungkol sa banta ng mga kalamidad, at pagtugon dito, kasama na ang pagbibigay ayuda, pagbangon, pagbuo muli at pagsulong pagkatapos ng ka-

lamidad.

Sa ulat ni WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas sa Geneva nitong nakaraang Marso, sinabing "lalong lumalala ang pisikal ng mga palatandaan ng 'climate change,' gaya ng patuloy na tumataas na temperatura at mapaminsalang epekto nito sa mundo," kasama ang pagkatunaw ng dambuhalang mga yelo, pagtaas ng tubig sa dagat at pagkakaroon ng mga 'heat waves,' mga pagbaha at 'El Nino,' pagkasira ng agrikultura at pagkakasakit ng mga tao. (Gemma Garcia)

minsalang epekto nito sa mundo," kasama ang pagkatunaw ng dambuhalang mga yelo, pagtaas ng tubig sa dagat at pagkakaroon ng mga 'heat waves,' mga pagbaha at 'El Nino,' pagkasira ng agrikultura at pagkakasakit ng mga tao. (Gemma Garcia)



TITLE:

PAGE 17

DATE

# BANTA NG CLIMATE CHANGE SA PINAS LUBHANG DELIKADO

SA magkakahiwalay na ulat kamakailan ng United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) at Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), sinasabing mataas ang puwesto ng Filipinas sa mga bansang delikado sa banta ng masamang panahong dulot ng 'climate change.'

Ayon kay Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, House Ways and Means Committee chairman at pangunahing may-akda ng panukalang Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) bill sa Kamara, na nasa Senado na, dapat maging handa ang bansa sa babalang ito lalo na sa pagtaya ng mapaminsalang mga bagyo na sadyang kailangan ng isang mabisang 'disaster resilience program.'

"Ang babalang ito ay pahiwatig na dapat ngang kasama sa panukalang DDR ang Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Service Administration (PAGASA)," puna niya. Lalong naging markadong panukala ang DDR matapos ang matinding pinsalang hatid ng sunod-sunod na malalakas na lindol sa Mindanao. Inaasahang maipapasa ito ng Senado bago dumating ang Pasko.

Sa panukalang DDR,

isaisailalim dito bilang 'attached agencies' ang Pagasa at ang Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) na bahagi ngayon ng Department of Science and Technology (DOST), bukod sa ilan pang mga tanggapan upang magkakatugma at mabisang magampanan nila ang mga gawaing kaugnay sa pagsuri at pagbigay ng tamang babala tungkol sa banta ng mga kalamidad, at pagtugon dito, kasama na ang pagbibigay ayuda, pagbangon, pagbuo muli at pagsulong pagkatapos ng kalamidad.

Gagawing isang 'major agency' ang DDR na pamumunuan ng isang Secretary na may mga 'undersecretaries, assistant secretaries and directors' sa ilalim niya. Magiging buod nito ang Office of Civil Defense (OCD) at isasama rito ang 'Climate Change Commission Office; 'Geo-Hazard Assessment and Engineering and Geology units' ng 'Mines and Geo-sciences Bureau' ng DENR; 'Health Emergency Management Bureau' ng DOH; 'Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau' ng DSWD; at 'Bureau of Fire Protection' ng DILG.'

Binigyang-diin ni Salceda na sadyang mahalaga ang Pagasa sa DDR para matiyak ang "unity of command, and science-based ap-

proach" sa mga kalamidad. Binanggit niya ang mga nagdaang mapaminsalang Superbagyong Mangkhut o Ompung na kumitil ng 134 buhay namerhuesyo ng mahigit 2.4 milyong iba pa, at Haiyan o Yolanda noong 2013 na nag-iwan ng 6,340 taong patay. Dahil sa tindi ng pinsala at aral nito sa mga Pinoy, pinagtibay ng Kamara ang HB 4960 na nagtatalaga sa ika-8 ng Nobyembre bilang 'Yolanda Commemoration Day,' sa Eastern Visayas.

Sa ulat ni WMO Secretary-General Peter Taalas sa Geneva nitong nakaraang Marso, sinabing "lalong lumalala ang pisikal ng mga palatandaan ng 'climate change' gaya ng patuloy na tumataas na temperatura at mapaminsalang epekto nito sa mundo," kasama ang pagkatunaw ng dambuhalang mga yelo, pagtaas ng tubig sa dagat at pagkakaroon ng mga 'heat waves,' mga pagbaha at 'El Niño, pagkasira ng agrikultura at pagkakasakit ng mga tao.

Inendorso ni Pangulong Duterte at paglikha ng DDR sa nakaraang mga SONA niya. Naipasa na ito ng Kamara sa nakaraang 17th Congress ngunit ginahol sa oras ang Senado na pagtibayin ito dahil sa 2018 election. Muli niya itong inihain ni Salceda sa 18th Congress at muling naipasa na. Nasa Senado na muli ang bill.



# Domestic water use eyed as priority in Laguna Lake

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEÓN

The government is mulling to make the use of domestic water a priority in Laguna Lake amid the continued supply crunch in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) is planning to discuss with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the

Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) how to go about the protocols needed to prioritize water in Laguna Lake.

MWSS administrator Emmanuel Salamat said challenges remain in treating Laguna Lake water.  
Turn to B14

## Domestic... From B9

Both concessionaires Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. are tapping and treating water from the lake.

"The water quality greatly affects cost and efficiency of water for domestic use. For me, more of contaminants and pollutants are coming by other facilities including commercial and industrial areas," Salamat told **The STAR**.

"While the Laguna Lake's use is divided, domestic use should still be the priority so we can optimize the water in the lake, while we are looking for other water sources," he added.

During the recent Cabinet meeting, MWSS proposed that there be an inter-agency task force on water supply and sewerage and sought that the Laguna Lake be declared as a vital source of water which needs protection and security.

"We want to know what will be the limitations and

boundaries once we are allowed to declare that Laguna Lake is a vital source. We will push for limitation and zoning in the ecosystem to improve Laguna Lake," Salamat said.

For its part, the LLDA maintained that one of the priorities of the multiple-use lake is for the domestic supply.

LLDA department manager for resource management and development Lennie Santos-Borja said as early as 1970s, water resources studies have predicted that Laguna Lake would be used for domestic supply starting 2000s.

Currently, Laguna Lake water has remained at Class C which is for the propagation and growth of fish and other aquatic resources, recreational water class such as boating, and industrial water supply class from manufacturing processes after treatment.

"While it is Class C, it is also compatible for other uses that's why Maynilad was the first to secure a permit to put up a

waste water treatment plant and they know the quality of Laguna Lake," Borja told **The STAR**.

"Under the Water Code of the Philippines, for domestic use is the priority especially with the current situation where a lot of people are being affected by the water crisis," she said.

The approximately 90,000-hectare lake with a volume of 1.3 billion cubic meters is surrounded by several industries. For aquaculture, 9,200 hectares is occupied.

Borja said Maynilad and Manila Water's water extraction from the Laguna Lake is still negligible. Maynilad has the 300 MLD Putatan treatment plants, while Manila Water has the 150 MLD Cardona plant.

"There are a lot of industries and by law, we implement the Clean Water Act, but there are still those who violate the law. For such a long time, Laguna Lake water is Class C due to untreated agriculture and commercial wastes," Borja said.



TITLE:

PAGE 11

DATE

## Angat Dam level low despite rain

THE WATER level at Angat Dam, the primary source of domestic supply in Metro Manila, remains low despite the downpour triggered by Typhoon "Quiel," the weather bureau said on Sunday.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Angat's water level was at 188.54 meters, just 0.08 higher than the previous day's reading.

When Quiel entered the country on November 5, the dam's level was at 188.39 meters.

The typhoon that unleashed devastating floods in Northern Luzon left on Saturday.

Angat's elevation is more than 8 meters above the minimum operating low level of 180 meters, but is still 21.46 meters below the 210-meter normal high water level, the target of water agencies to ensure enough supply until the dry season.

Pagasa hydrologist Danny Flores said there had been no significant rainfall in the Angat watershed area.

"Abnormal *siya* during

this month *na nag-go down siya, umaangat nang bahagya tapos bumababa, parang nag-level off lang siya* (It is somewhat abnormal that the water level has decreased, increased slightly then decreased again, it has only leveled-off)," Flores said. He explained that in the past years, Angat usually registers levels within the rule curve or around 190 meters to 210 meters in November.

Flores said 800 millimeters of continuous rainfall is needed to bring Angat's water level to the 210-meter mark.

Pagasa's Climate Monitoring and Prediction had forecast only around 300 millimeters of rainfall in November.

Water concessionaires have implemented rotational service interruptions since October because of low water supply. The National Water Resources Board maintained a 40-cubic-centimeter-per-second (cms) water allocation for Metro Manila, lower than the normal 46 cms, to help minimize water level decline.

**DIVINA NOVA JOY DELA CRUZ**





## WawaJVCo gets BDO loan to fund water supply project

By Jenniffer B. Austria

WAWAJVCO, a joint venture of Enrique Razon's Prime Infra and Oscar Viola-go's San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders Group, signed a P20-billion term loan facility with BDO Unibank Inc. to jumpstart the construction of the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project in Rizal province.

BDO Capital and Investments Corp. president Eduardo Francisco did not disclose the details of the loan but confirmed that an agreement was signed on Friday.

"A deal was signed. It shows that the project is bankable, feasible and that there will be support for the project," Francisco said.

BDO Capital acted as the sole arranger and book runner off the deal.

The project is expected to address the recurring water supply problem in Metro Manila. It aims to deliver at least 80 million liters per day to east zone water concessionaire Manila Water Company which will be the offtaker of the project starting year 2021 and over 500 MLD by 2025.

The project is still awaiting the final approval of state-owned Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

MWSS chairman Reynaldo Velasco earlier said the company would give its final approval for the Wawa dam—a major flagship project of the Duterte administration's water security program.

Velasco said the MWSS board would tackle and approve the Wawa Dam project to help address the water supply deficit in the east zone.

"The Wawa Dam is an integral part of the overall short-, medium- and long-term water flagship projects of MWSS to ensure water security," Velasco said.

"We are in a catch-up mode as far as water supply source is concerned. Wawa Dam, which used to be the water source for Metro Manila before Angat Dam was completed in 1967 and became operational, has been identified by water experts as the best potential water supply source for Metro Manila," Velasco said.

WawaJVCo signed an offtake agreement on Aug. 6

"We are ready to move forward and have been proactively working with all stakeholders, public and private, to progress this project since 2018. Wawa is the fastest and least expensive water source development and comes at no cost to the government," said Prime Infra's Enrique Razon.



## Wawa approval process in final stretch

APPROVAL process for the construction of the Wawa bulk water supply project is now on its final stretch as the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) assured its proponent the government considers it as a major flagship project for Metro Manila's water security.

Reynaldo Velasco, MWSS chairman, said the regulatory body's board will soon give the project its final approval after receiving last November 7 the favorable opinion from the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) on the remaining conditions

precedent to make the project fully effective.

"We are in a catch-up mode as far as water supply source is concerned. Wawa Dam, which used to be the water source for Metro Manila before Angat Dam was completed on 1967 and became operational, has been identified by water experts as the best potential water supply source for Metro Manila," Velasco said in a statement November 8.

The supplemental agreement which was submitted last September 13 is crucial for penalties, access road responsibility and

metering protocol.

It is the remaining document for the project proponent to proceed in the development work.

Wawa JV Co., the joint venture between Enrique Razon's Prime Infra and businessman Oscar Violago's San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders Group is developing the project which aims to supply 80 million liters per day (MLD) of water in 2021 and over 500 MLD by 2025.

Last August, an offtake agreement was signed by the JV with Manila Water Co. after a series of technical workshops and review by MWSS and the OGCC.



## Wawa Dam Project OK assured

*Success is not final, failure is not fatal.  
It is the courage to continue that counts.*  
- Darkest Hour

**FOR a moment there Ped Xing thought everything is being frittered away by sheer regulatory neglect or oversight.**

Quite thankfully, all is not water under the bridge, so to speak.

How can indeed a decidedly huge flagship project with a tremendous socio-economic impact be so casually brushed aside, relegated to the back turbines of the Duterte administration's order of priorities?

It is, quite simply, unthinkable.

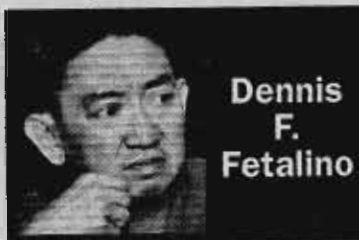
It would have been an irresponsible, insensitive, and quite intolerable behavior for such a vital state regulatory agency to do so at a critical time when the National Capital Region, at least many parts of it and its environs, are dry, parched throughout most of the day - some up to 18 hours without water.

Lawmakers - Sen. Imee Marcos and partylist Rep. Lito Atienza - are vehemently demanding that private entities responsible for the crisis be held responsible.

Meanwhile, another lawmaker - Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, House Ways and Means Committee chairman, is aggressively pushing for the establishment of a Department of Water.

### PED XING

deftwrit@gmail.com



Dennis  
F.  
Fetalino

All these when the basic water cure is, quite simply, a reliable supply and delivery system which a third industry entrant is offering and eagerly waiting to be cleared for mobilization.

That much-awaited decision to proceed has finally come to pass.

And so Metro Manila residents and those living in certain areas around it can now heave a sigh of great relief.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System has assured Prime Infra's Enrique Razon that the water agency would give its final approval for the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project, stressing that it remains a major flagship project of the Duterte administration's water security program.

The assurance was given by MWSS chairman Reynaldo V. Velasco who

disclosed that the MWSS Board is set to tackle and approve the Wawa Dam project to help address the water supply deficit in the Eastern Zone under Manila Water.

"The WAWA Dam is an integral part of the overall short-, medium- and long-term water flagship projects of MWSS to ensure water security," Velasco said.

Prior to his promotion as chairman, Velasco was the MWSS administrator when the issues and concerns relative to the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project were presented, addressed and approved.

"We are in a catch-up mode as far as water supply source is concerned. Wawa Dam, which used to be the water source for Metro Manila before Angat Dam was completed on 1967 and became operational, has been identified by water experts as the best potential water supply source for Metro Manila," Velasco added.

Project proponent WawaJVCO, a joint venture of Razon's Prime Infra and Oscar Violago's San Lorenzo Ruiz Builders Group, MWSS and Manila Water Co. already signed an offtake agreement last August 6.

Since the signing of the agreement, public consultations have been conducted by the MWSS Regulatory Of-

**TO PAGE 5**

## Wawa...

### FROM PAGE 4

These public consultations gave the public the opportunity to learn about the project details as well as the tariff impact.

However, the changing of the guards in the MWSS administration has also contributed to the delay in the development work.

To jumpstart the project, final approvals remain on the supplemental agreement, which was submitted last September 13 for MWSS's approval.

It is a necessary document for the agreement on the outstanding issues on penalties, access road responsibility and metering protocol. It is the remaining document to make the project fully effective and enable the project proponent to proceed in the development work.

The MWSS received last November 7 the favorable opinion from the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel on the remaining conditions precedent to make the project fully effective.

The project would supply an additional 80 MLD in 2021 and over 500 MLD in 2025.

"We are ready to move forward and have been proactively working with all stakeholders, public and private, to progress this project since 2018. Wawa is the fastest and least expensive water source development and comes at no cost to the government," said Prime Infra's Razon.

Over seven months ago, Manila Water Co. disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Prime Infra for the development of the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project, a new water source development at no cost to the government.

Got that? Zero, zilch, nada, nothing, wala.

After a series of technical workshops and review by MWSS and the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, the Offtake Agreement was signed by MWSS, MWC, and WawaJVCO last August 6.

This was then followed by a series of public consultations all over the East Zone from Sept. 3 to 9, 2019 led by the MWSS-RO.

Project details were presented to the public alongside the tariff im-

pact.

The presentation was well received by the public because it was clear that this project is the most efficient and fastest solution to the on-going water crisis. Subsequently, the MWSS Board approved the tariff.

Razon stated: "We are ready to move forward and have been proactively working with all stakeholders, public and private, to progress this project since 2018. Wawa is the fastest and least expensive water source development and comes at no cost to the government. We are hopeful that the final steps will be taken in the coming days to finally deliver a project of critical importance to the residents of Metro Manila."

In response to the water crisis, the government is seeking to develop new water sources.

In fact, the MWSS wants the Laguna Lake to be declared as "a vital source of water" in wake of the looming water crisis in Metro Manila.

MWSS Administrator Emmanuel Salamat made this suggestion during the 43rd Cabinet meeting in Malacañang on Wednesday, stressing the need

for Laguna Lake to be protected and secured, Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said in a statement.

Last September, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources expressed support for the government's plan of sourcing additional water supply from the Laguna Lake to address Metro Manila's water woes.

Just last October 24, both concessionaires started to ration water again as Metro Manila's main water source, Angat Dam, continues to be below ideal level.

Maynilad and Manila Water announced rotational water service interruptions due to the continued decline of water levels in the Angat and Ipo dams.

The two water concessionaires also warned that the water rationing may last until next year.

President Duterte earlier warned of taking over operations of water concessionaires using "extraordinary powers of the presidency" should the looming water crisis gets declared as a national emergency.

*Behold God's glory and seek His mercy.  
Pause a pray, people.*



## DENR MGB XI monitors EQ-hit areas in Davao Region; Cimatu urges LGUs to reexamine MGB's geological hazard maps

**T**he Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB-XI) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) continuously conducts geohazard assessments and identify affected areas due to the series of high magnitude earthquakes ranging from 6.1 to 6.6 in Mindanao which started occurring in October 16, 2019.

Immediately, all geologists and MGB personnel embedded in DENR-XI's provincial offices were dispatched and were instructed to assess their respective areas of responsibility (AORs) and to closely coordinate with the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC), P/C/M Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMOs) and the Local Government Units (LGUs).

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, evaluated the aftermath of the earthquake and bore a call to the LGUs to reexamine MGB's geological hazard maps with their recommendations which were issued to their offices to serve as their guide and reference in managing calamitous events.

MGB-XI Regional Director Atty. Jasper Alberto Lascano said that field assessment and monitoring in earthquake-hit areas are still on-going.

"The result and findings of the assessment and monitoring are furnished to the respective offices for their appropriate action. This is part of the bureau's disaster-response efforts," Lascano said.

In Davao del Sur, landslides hit the Municipality of Magsaysay where there are reported casualties in Barangays Upper Bala and Asbangilok. The team also noted tension cracks in some areas and strongly recommended that the affected community should be immediately relocated.

Moreover, in the Municipality of Kiblawan, the team reported a threat of flashflood occurrence along the Bugac River in Brgy. San Jose. In response, a meeting between the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) XI, Local Government Unit (LGU) Kiblawan, Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) XI and MGB XI was initiated for the excavation of the river damming to

prevent the occurrence of the said flashflood. The said river damming was attributed to the earthquake-induced landslide wherein debris material was deposited along the river channel causing blockage of the river flow.

"This resulted to the accumulation of surface water in the upstream side of the river with an approximate depth of 8 feet. The excavation will mitigate the occurrence of flashflood," said Beverly Mae Brebante, MGB XI's OIC-Chief, Geosciences Division.

In Davao City, there were occurrences of landslides in Marilog District, Brgy. Mandug, Brgy. Buhangin and Catalunan Grande but neither were there casualties nor injuries reported.

In Marilog district, tension cracks and slumps were observed along the barangay road in So. Makatol in Brgy. Magsaysay wherein the team recommended for the immediate relocation of families residing in the area. An old landslide was also noted in Purok Acacia in Brgy. Tamugan with vertical displacement of 10 meters wherein approximately 100 households are located 40 meters near the base of the slope.

The team strongly recommended that the BLGU must monitor the area and implement preemptive evacuation.

Further, an earthquake-induced landslide was noted in a village along Davao River in Brgy. Mandug, affecting one house. The houses located along the riverbank are also at risk due to active scouring. Immediate relocation of houses along the riverbank or installation of riverbank protection were some of the recommendations of the MGB team.

Ruth M. Tawantawan, OIC-ASEC for Eastern Mindanao in concurrent capacity as Regional Executive Director of DENR XI expresses her recognition to MGB XI's hardwork and quick action in identifying safer areas to put the Davaoños in safer grounds and help preventing further damage through their continuous issuance of advisory.

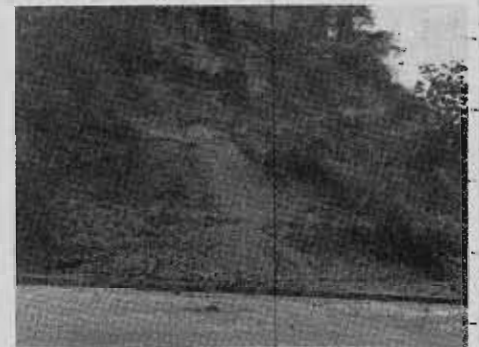
Prior to the earthquake, MGB XI has been issuing threat advisories in areas that are susceptible to landslide and flooding and recommends to the LGUs to advise its affected constituents to initiate readiness and measures. (DENR-XI)



Cabilao Road Boundary New Opon, Magsaysay and Cabilao, Makilala



Landslide in San Jose, Kiblawan, Davao del Sur.



Landslide in Baluyan Road, Brgy. Bolton, Malalag, Davao del Sur



# Gov't audits 18 major mine sites

By MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR

**S**ome 18 major mining operations in the Philippines, one of the highest mineralized countries in the world, are undergoing a strict three-month government audit.

Environment Undersecretary for Mining Concerns Analiza Rebuella-Teh said that after months of delay, the second round of mining audit led by the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) has finally pushed through.

"It already started this month. There has been some field visits already," Teh said.

The MICC, co-chaired by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, started the three-month audit with Apex Mining Corp.'s mining operation at Compostella Valley, which was confirmed later on by the company's chief operating officer, Louie Sarmiento.

"They just completed the audit last Thursday," Sarmiento said in a text message.

Next on MICC's list would

be Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp., which is largely owned by SM Group. After that, the MICC is hoping to cover this month the audit of the other big mining firms like Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp., Philex Mining Corp., Platinum Group Metals Corp., Taganito Mining Corp., Cagdianao Mining Corp., and Pacific Nickel Philippines Inc.'s operations in Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands.

For December, the audit will target the operations of TechIron Resources, Inc., Filmera Resources Corp., FCF Minerals Corp., and Century Peak Corporation's Rapid City Nickel and Casiguran Nickel Projects.

The last leg of the audit will be done in January and will cover the operations of Agata Mining Ventures, SR Metals, Inc., Philsaga Mining Corp., Greenstone Resources Corp., and Tribal Mining Corp.

All the mine audits will run for three days. After that, the government will need about six months to assess and prepare for the results, which should be out in June.



# Mining industry seen growing in 2020 on Indonesia export ban

**By Vincent Mariel P. Galang**  
Reporter

THE Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said it is projecting the mining industry to grow next year, factoring in the priority mining projects in the pipeline, as well as increased prices for nickel ore due to the export ban in place in Indonesia, the top producer.

"Personally, positive *ang* outlook *ko* (my outlook is positive). *Una* (First), we have signs, like *yung ating mga* (that our) priority projects that are going to proceed to developmental and commercial extraction," MGB Director Wilfredo G. Moncano said in news conference.

He cited projects like the Silangan Copper-Gold Project of Philex Mining Corp. in Surigao del Norte, and the Balabag Gold-Silver project of TVI Resources Development (Phils.), Inc. (TVIRD) in Zamboanga del Sur.

In a Sept. 26 letter, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the MGB approved Philex Mining's underground sub-level cave mining method for the Silangan mine. This project could be the company's biggest source of revenue once its 61-year-old Padcal Mine in Tuba, Benguet closes in 2022.

Philex is also in the process of looking for possible investors for the Silangan project to raise 40% of the \$750-million initial investment. It has also appointed JPMorgan to advise on possible equity investments and Mizuho Financial Group to raise project financing.

TVIRD, the Philippine affiliate of Canadian miner TVI Pacific, Inc., is in the pre-operational phase at Balabag after its permit was cancelled by former Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez, who found the project to be near a watershed.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines has estimated

that the project could attract \$20 billion to \$30 billion worth of investment.

The Philippine Mining Law of 1995 prohibits operations in critically protected areas, like proclaimed watersheds and forest reserves, but is silent on functional watersheds.

Mr. Moncano said that TVIRD has proceeded to development and commercial extraction since its operation is not covered by the ban on open-pit mining and Executive Order 79, which prohibits granting permits to new mining projects.

Indonesia has also imposed a nickel-ore export ban starting next year, which the Philippines could take advantage of the second-largest producer.

"*Ayaw na nilang mag-export ng kanilang nickel* (They do not want export their nickel) to China and Japan, so that would be a good reason *para mag-increase yung production ng ating* (to increase production of our) nickel," he said.

Indonesia is hoping to develop a smelting industry as an alternative to exporting its ore, hereby capturing more value-added activity. It was the top nickel-producer in 2018 with 560,000 tons, followed by the Philippines with 340,000 tons. Their top export market is China.

He said that the ban may also result in higher prices of nickel, which could make more mines in the Philippines viable.

Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA) President Dante R. Bravo said, "It's going to boost the local production of nickel and it's going to improve the prices even for lower grades."

"Marginal producers... will have more market for lower grades. We might be able to sell that next year and will be able to optimize the ore utilization," he said, adding that with more stable prices next year, the Philippines could also attract more investors for value-added processing of nickel.



## GEO-HAZARD MAPPING ITINULAK SA MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU - R2

**IDINEPLOY** ng pamunuan ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Region-2 na pinamumunuan ni Director Mario Ancheta ng assessment sa mga insidente ng landslide at mga pagbaha sa mga lalawigan partikular sa hilagang bahagi ng Cagayan.

Sinabi ni Felicitas Peligan ng MGB Region 2, unang isinagawa ang assessment ang bayan ng Baggao lalo na sa may Barangay Assasi dahil sa umano'y nakitaan na ng mga bitak ng lupa sa

paligid nang isang eskuwelahan.

Kamakailan ay inirekomenda na nang ahensiya ng MGB sa Local Government Unit ng Baggao na i-relocate ang mga mag-aaral dahil nakitaan ng tension crack ang Massissit Elementary School na maaring gumuho anumang oras lalo na kapag mayroong malakas na buhos ng ulan.

Kaugnay nito, na gagawa ng rekomendasyon ang pamunuan ng MGB batay sa resulta ng ginagawang mapping, at ma-

babaw na ang mga ilog dahil sa mga naimbak na lupa mula sa mga kabundukan kung kaya't hindi nito kinaya ang tubig ulan na mula sa bahagi ng Apayao at Abra na dahilan ng nararanasang pagbaha sa probinsiya.

Inihayag din nang MGB na mayroon nang geo-hazard mapping na ikinalat sa iba't ibang barangay para magamit na ang mga ito sa pagpapalano at basehan ng force evacuation kung mayroong banta ng sakuna.

**IRENE GONZALES**



## ACB, Searca ink MOU on sustainable agriculture, biodiversity

**L**OS BAÑOS, Laguna—The Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca) renewed their partnership in integrating and mainstreaming biodiversity into agriculture.

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim and Searca Director Glenn Gregorio signed the second memorandum of understanding (MOU) for institutional cooperation in a ceremony held at the Searca hotel at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) last week.

The MOU is a continuation of the collaboration between the two organizations in pursuing their shared objectives of promoting sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation.

"We are continuing this partnership to further our efforts in mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture in the region. Mainstreaming is important



ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim (left, seated) and Searca Director Glenn Gregorio (right, seated) sign the MOU for collaboration between the two Asean Institutions in promoting sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation. ACB

because of the inextricable connection between agriculture and biodiversity. Together, our organizations can work to strike the balance between the two," Lim said.

The ACB, chief also added agrobiodiversity—the variety

and variability of animals, plants, and microorganisms that are used directly or indirectly for food and agriculture—can help address the world's growing food demand and safeguard the region's biodiversity.

Since 2016, when the first

MOU was signed, the ACB and Searca have organized two regional workshops and published two papers on mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture.

Among the outputs of the workshops was the Asean joint action plan on mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture, which was endorsed by the Asean Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity during its 29th meeting.

"We believe that our organizations have the right ingredients for a long and fruitful partnership," Gregorio said, noting that the ACB and Searca are both headquartered at UPLB and serving the same member-countries of the Asean.

Under the new MOU, the ACB and the Searca will jointly undertake projects and activities covering thematic areas on agriculture and biodiversity, along with capacity enhancement activities and information exchange and awareness campaigns.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# BusinessMirror

Unabridged at 646-8100

A9  
PAGE

HIGHER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

RAIDER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

07-17-10

PHOTO

PAGE 17

DATE



**MONKEY BUSINESS** Up on a tree branch at the Dorothy compound in Plaridel, Santiago City, a young monkey looks defensively on approaching lenses. Primates' natural habitats are trees in the wild. CEASAR M. PERANTE

# Virtual reality tour for 'Yolanda' healing

By Krixia Subingsubing  
@krixiasINQ

Hardest to remove from the roads in the coastal village of Anibong in Tacloban City after Super typhoon "Yolanda" (international name: Haiyan) struck six years ago, according to survivor Maria Rosario Bactol, were not storm debris or even the 3,000-ton commercial vessel that had been pushed ashore by cyclone surge.

"There were so many bodies," the 61-year-old former village chair recalled. "[When] I opened my door [after the storm, I saw] corpses on my front lawn."

For days, Bactol assisted grieving families identify the dead and bury them. But she and her family, too, had suffered: their house was suddenly full of people who had lost their homes in the storm.

She endured it all to help others survive.

## Virtual reality showcase

Six years later, Bactol still remains a trusty guide to all who visit Anibong, thanks to a private organization's efforts to memorialize the community's healing in a virtual reality (VR) showcase.

The survivors' stories of grief and healing anchor this simulated experience, produced by Postcards from Disaster in partnership with Microsoft Education's Amicus Koi Solutions and VRTY of Australia.

"We thought of this as the perfect way to scale up the storytelling experience," said Makoi Popioco, Postcards cofounder. "It's a way of making you feel like you're at the heart of it all. By seeing and hearing what they

experience, you can have a better grasp of how they are living six years after Yolanda."

For four years, Postcards has been doing post-Yolanda civic work in the villages, among the hardest hit by the typhoon in Eastern Visayas.

Initially, Popioco said, they taught some of the villagers to document their lives and the community—"postcards from disaster," as he calls them—not only to memorialize the tragedy that struck them but also to depict how its consequences continue to affect their lives.

Among the villagers they had reached out to was John Rey dela Rosa, 19, who dropped out of school after Yolanda. He learned quickly how to use the camera and take compelling photographs of Anibong.

"In our sessions, they taught us not only how to handle a camera, but also about our rights [as displaced people]," Dela Rosa said. "They said that by documenting our lives—the hazards that surround us—we would be more aware of them."

## Most urgent needs

This documentation was useful in informing local government officials about Anibong's most urgent needs: housing, schools, better coastal protection.

"Sometimes, they don't believe the extent of their needs, and then you show them the photos—that's when they're compelled to act," Popioco said.

Virtual reality therefore was a natural extension of their efforts to engage everyone concerned in

rehabilitating Tacloban.

Through interactive 360-degree video, said VRTY CEO Kingston Lee-Young, they hope to "unlock the power of VR and 360-video" as not only belonging to games and entertainment, but also as a way "to educate ... to change the way people experience information."

It took them nearly 10 weeks, with team members working across five countries (Philippines, Australia, United States, Japan and China), to gather all the materials needed to put the showcase together, Lee-Young said.

"The biggest challenge in human rights stories is getting your viewer to care," he said. "[So] we

asked ourselves what stories are there that need to be told, and what the viewers want to see."

## Website, virtual reality gear

There are two ways by which people can experience this storytelling innovation: through website (fully up on Monday) and through virtual reality gear.

Both contain the same interactive content, with Bactol's narration leading the viewer to some of Anibong's most notable post-Yolanda landmarks.

The showcase includes a 360-degree tour around the Yolanda Shipwreck Memorial Park that houses the bow of the M/V Eva Jocelyn, which was washed ashore



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

A-14  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11-11-19

TITLE:

PAGE 17

DATE

P-2

Virtual reality tour for "Yolanda" healing



**STORIES OF SURVIVORS** "Yolanda's Ground Zero 360°" exhibit, which is running in Glorietta 4 up to Thursday, features Anibong village in Tacloban six years after Super typhoon "Yolanda" pummeled Leyte province. On the tour, viewers can see and hear for themselves the stories of the survivors as they try to move on from the rubble left behind six years ago. —KRIXIA SUBINGSUBING

more they are exposed to human rights abuses," Popioco said.

What's clearest from the virtual reality tour, which also includes short documentaries and photographs taken by the villagers, is that there's still a long way to go before Tacloban can fully move on from Yolanda's devastation. At one point in the tour, Bactol reminds the viewers that Anibong is one of so many places most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

**Government action**

Without concrete and urgent action from the government, she says, the village would continue to fall prey to the rising sea, and "the lands upon which our homes are built would be slowly erased."

Popioco said Postcards and its partners hope to influence policy reforms through their project. Currently, he said, they were in constant touch with the government, advising it based on their documentation how best to handle relocation and youth education.

While they are planning to replicate the same project in other disaster-stricken areas, they wish to focus their attention first on Tacloban to make sure that they leave lasting changes in the community, he said.

"But it's more important to educate the residents themselves," he said. "They need to have a change in mindset, understand their rights ... Once we raise awareness, they would be the ones to knock on [the government's door]." INQ

by storm surge in Anibong at the height of Yolanda. If viewers go up the deck, they will get a panoramic view of Anibong—as well as the dangerous proximity of several houses to the sea that nearly lapped up the village six years ago.

While the villagers have long been advised to relocate to safer places, the lack of decent housing and economic opportunities keep them beached, Popioco said. At one point in the tour, viewers are taken into the home of Yolanda survivors of whom only one is qualified for relocation.

"As in other disasters, it's also clear [in Yolanda] the same cycle of human rights abuses. The longer they are displaced, the



## PHL folktale characters used to bring deforestation to public's attention

**G**LOBE has reinforced its partnership with Hineleban Foundation to drive awareness on the importance of planting more endemic trees and protecting the forests in view of the estimated 47,000 hectares of forest cover that the Philippines loses annually due to the destructive effect of deforestation.

To engage the public—most especially the younger generation—and teach them about rainforestation, Globe introduced stylized Philippine folktale characters—the *tikbalang*, *nuno sa punso*, *diwata*, *engkanto* and *engkantada*, and the *aguila*.

These characters represent the now-homeless mythical creatures who were displaced from their natural forest habitat.

“The state of our Philippine rainforests are highly critical. In fact, they are almost gone. This campaign intends to revive our Filipino folklore so that our young people can get to know them again. Using artistry from our partner HMT Studios, we want activities and conversation around reforestation to go mainstream so that together we can all contribute to preserving and protecting our rainforests,” said Yoly Crisanto, globe chief sustainability officer and SVP for Corporate Communications.

*Kapre* is a “gentle giant,” sweet and very warm. He serves as the leader of the forest creatures who look up to him for guidance and direction. When their home in the forest got destroyed from deforestation, he got lost trying to protect his friends. Now he is in the city, feeling out of place, as he is forced to spend his life alone with the noise, pollution and cruelty of the city.

Kit is the kind-hearted *tikbalang*, who lost the love of his life along with his family when their forest home was destroyed. Now, he wanders in the city crying and

looking for his loved ones.

Tatang is the *nuno sa punso* who never thought he would outlive even the youngest of his clan, but illegal loggers came and attacked his home, causing devastation to his community.

He followed the men to the city to find justice, forcing him to live alone, building a *punso* from the city's trash.

There is also Debbie, the *diwata* known for her enchanting beauty. When she lost her dwelling due to *kaingin* (slash and burn), she was forced to live in the city, but the pollution and gunk made her lose her beauty.

Joining Debbie are Enzo and Erika, the *engkanto* and *engkantada* of the group, respectively.

Enzo likes going around the forest, playing around nooks and corners, but massive deforestation made him lose his way as he played, leading him to a foreign land: the city.

Erika, on the other hand, is known for her alluring voice, and uses her singing to communicate. Creatures in the forest would listen to her sing every day until illegal logging forced her into the city where noise pollution drowned out her voice.

Finally, there is *Aguila*, who brought to life the first man and woman, *Malakas* and *Maganda*, when he cracked open a bamboo trunk.

As he sees his beloved forest being destroyed by people, *Aguila* feels responsible for giving life to them and vowed to stay in the sky and never land, watching what remains of the forests and helping the remaining forest creatures.

But with pollution contaminating the sky, *Aguila* is finding it more and more difficult to stay among the clouds.

Their story may be viewed in the video on <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=545713756263375>.



TITLE:

DATE

SA taong ito, nabinbin ang napakaraming proyekto ng pamahalaang Duterte dahil sa awayan sa pork barrel o pinagkakaperahan ng mga kongresman at senador.

Yun bang === inabot ng halos limang buwan bago nagamit ang pambansang badyet para sa taong 2019.

Ang maganda rito, ni veto o hindi inaprubahan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang P95 bilyong pork barrel ng mga kongresman at senador, kasama na ang nasa P75 bilyong proyekto sa ilalim ng Department of Public Works and Highways na wala sa prayoridad ng kanyang administrasyon.

Napigilan ang napakalaking halaga ng buwis ng mga mamamayan na tinangkang dugasin ng mga korap sa Kongreso at mga kasabwat nila sa Ehekutibo at mga ganid ding negosyanteng kasabwat nila.

#### MASAMANG BUNGA

Pero nanatili ang katotohanang nasiraan ng arangkada ang pamahalaan tungo sa dapat sanang pagbabago at pag-unlad.

Pangunahing naapektuhan ang mga programa para sa mga mahihirap dahil walang nailabas na salapi ang gobyerno para sa kanila para sa buong limang buwan ng taon.

Halimbawa, hindi nakatanggap ang mga benepisyaryo ng 4Ps sa tamang panahon.

Ang mga libo-libong mahihirap na barangay na umaasa pangunahin sa internal revenue allotment ay halos naparalisa rin sa loob ng anim na buwan.

Marami ring nabinbin na proyektong imprastruktura na ikinatigil ng trabaho at natamaan dito ang napakaraming nasa ilalim ng patakarang "no work, no pay."

Naapektuhan pati ang pagbabayad ng utang ng mga pamahalaang lokal at naperwisyo sila sa lumaking interes ng kanilang utang para sa kanilang mga proyekto.

Ganyan katindi ang bunga ng kaganidan ng mga kongresman at senador na nagpa-delay sa dapat sanang salaping bayari na maaprubahan sa tamang panahon.

#### NAKA-PARK NA P20 BILYON

Ngayon ay may sinasabi si Senador Ping Lacson na naka-park na pondo ng ilang kongres-



## KORAP SA PAMBANSANG BADYET ILANTAD, YARIIN!

man na nagkakahalaga ng P20 bilyon.

Hindi naman umano pork ang tinukoy na pondo na naikalat sa DPWH, Department of Interior and Local Government dahil may pangalan ang mga proyekto.

Subalit walang detalye kung paano gagamitin gaya ng kalsada halimbawa.

Dapat umanong may malinaw na lugar ng proyekto, haba at kapal ng kalsada, gagamiting materyales pero wala umanong ganito kaya hindi pupwedeng mailapat ang pondo.

Mayroon ding lump sum o bulto na para pa rin sa napangalang proyekto pero wala ring detalye.

At nang magkaroon ng pagtatanong ang Senado sa mga opisyal ng gobyerno na tagapaganggap ng mga proyekto, nakapagtatakwang wala silang alam ukol dito.

Kaya naman kadudaduda ang mga proyekto at maaaring pagmulan na naman ito ng mga iskam.

Ngayon ay pinallinaw ng Palasyo kung ano-ano at saan-saang departamento matatagpuan ang mga naka-park na pondo para pagdating nga panahon ay madesisyunan ni Pang. Duterte kung aaprubahan o hindi.

#### NOBYEMBRE NA WALA PANG LINAW

Mabilis na lumalakad ang panahon at malapit nang magtapos ang taon.

Subalit nag-iirangan pa rin ang mga kongresman at senador na naka-park ng mga pondo.

Maaaring pagsimulan uli ito ng mabagal na usad ng pag-apruba ng pambansang badyet para sa taong 2020.

Ang tanong ngayon: posible bang maulit ang pagkabinbin ng pambansang badyet at aabot na naman ito sa kung ilang buwan sa taong 2020?

Sana naman hindi na.

#### 2019 BUDGET EXTENSION

Nagkaroon kamakailan ang Kamara ng unanymous na desisyon na gamitin ang badyet sa 2019 hanggang Disyembre 31, 2020.

Ginawa ang aksyon bilang paghahanda sa posibilidad na hindi magawa at maaprubahan ang badyet para sa 2020.

Kung sakaling mangyari ito, anak ng tokwa, ang dami na namang maapektuhan.

Balak ng pamahalaang Duterte, halimbawa, na itaas ang sahod ng mga titser at nars.

Paano maisasagawa ito kung pahiralin ang 2019 badyet na walang probisyon para sa taas-sahod ng mga titser at nars?

Paano ang mga bagong proyekto na dapat simulan sa Enero 1, 2019 na kasama sa Build, Build, Build program ng pamahalaan?

Paano ang mga nilikhang ahensya ng pamahalaan para tugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng mga mamamayan laban sa kagutuman, mapanirang kalikasan, free education, libreng doktor at ospital at marami pang iba?

#### KASTIGUHIN SILANG KORAP

Dapat na kastiguhin o pakialaman na ng mga mamamayan ang pagkagahaman ng mga opisyal ng pamahalaan na dahilan ng hindi tamang paglalapat ng salaping bayan.

Diyan sa Senado, nalalaman ang mga nagpa-park at nagpo-pork barrel.

Maganda sanang ilabas ng mga senador kung sino-sino ang mga nasa likod ng nagpa-park o pag-pork barrel sa buwis ng bayari.

Kung may nalalaman din ang ilang kongresman, dapat din silang mag-ingay at kahit ang mga mamamayan.

Dito natin matututulan si Pangulong Duterte at ang pamahalaan na magpasya ukol sa salaping bayan na dapat nakasentro sa kapakanan ng buong bayan at hindi sa bulsa ng mga korap at mandarambong.

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