

DATE : 11-12-19

DAY : Tuesday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



99-12-19

TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____

DENR sweeps Group B elims

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

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) continued its hot streak, claiming the scalp of National Housing Authority, 87-84, to complete a sweep of the Group B elims in 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 77-77 count as the Warriors notched their fifth straight win 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 points each and Des Ayson and Ryan Abanes combined for 21 points.



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COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



TITLE: _____

PAGE 1/ _____

DATE _____

DENR TO DEPLOY 'ESTERO RANGERS'

FROM the initial plan of two estero rangers, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will now deploy four estero rangers to each barangay in Metro Manila located within and near Manila Bay to help the local government units address waste disposal.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said that he had already approved the hiring of at least 2,000 "river commanders" to guard and monitor indiscriminate garbage dumping in each locality and at the same time improve trash collection through project "Battle for Manila."

Cimatu earlier said that there is a need to overhaul the disposal system in Metro Manila while addressing the public to stop dumping their trash into the waterways.

Joel dela Torre



2,000 estero ranger isasabak sa Manila Bay rehab

Kukuha ng mahigit 2,000 estero ranger ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para tumulong sa mga local government unit na tugunan ang walang tigil na pagtatapon ng mga basura sa Manila Bay.

Ibinigay ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu ang kanyang go signal sa pagkuha ng mga estero ranger sa isang pagpupulong kamakailan kasama ang mga senior official ng kagawaran na itinalaga niya bilang mga 'river

commander' na siyang mamamahala sa mga gawain para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Cimatu, tig-dalawang estero ranger ang itatalaga sa 711 barangay kung saan may mga eskinita na malapit sa mga estero na hindi nararating ng mga trak ng basura.

Aniya, ang mga naturang eskinita ay karaniwang tinitirhan ng mga informal family settler.

Nabatid na bawat estero ranger ay tatanggap ng buwanang sahod na P8,500 batay

sa five-day work week schedule. Tungkulin ng mga ito na magtanggag ng basura mula sa mga estero na may nakalagay na trash trap at maghakot ng basura mula sa bawat bahay sa ilang eskinita.

Dadalhin naman ang nakolektang mga basura sa pick-up point na dinadaan ng mga dump truck.

Pormal na itatalaga ang mga estero ranger sa Nobyembre 15 na gaganapin sa punong tanggapan ng DENR sa Quezon City.



2K ESTERO RANGERS IPAKAKALAT

INAPRUBAHAN na ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang pagkuha ng mahigit 2,000 estero rangers na tutulong sa local government units (LGUs) sa pagbabantay sa loob at paligid ng Manila Bay laban sa walang humpay na pagtatapon ng basura.

Ipinahayag ito ni Cimatu sa isang pagpupulong, kasama ang senior officials ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), na itinalaga niya bilang 'river commanders' na

siyang mamamahala sa mga gawain alinsunod sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

"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," sabi ni Cimatu na siyang pinuno ng Manila Bay Inter-Agency Task Force.

Ayon sa DENR chief, tig-dadalawang estero rangers ang itatalaga sa 711 barangays na may eskinita na malapit sa mga estero na 'di na-

rarating ng mga trak ng basura. Ang naturang eskinita ay karaniwang tinitirhan ng informal settler families.

Ang estero rangers ay inendoso ng mga opisyal ng mga barangay sa koordinasyon ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) at pormal na itatalaga sa November 15.

Nabatid na hindi bababa sa 203 creeks at daluyan ng tubig o waterways na dumadaloy sa 711 barangays ang seserbisyuhan ng mga estero ranger.

**BENEDICT
ABAYGAR, JR.**



Concessionaires prepare plan for scenario without Kaliwa Dam supply

Water concessionaires Maynilad Water Services, Inc. and Manila Water Company have already started imagining a scenario without the controversial Kaliwa Dam project, preparing for their own separate contingency measures in case the Duterte Administration fails to get the China-funded project moving over the next two years.

"If we see that nothing is happening, we have to make our move," Maynilad President and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez said.

It's the same case for Manila Water, according to Manila Water Chief Operating Officer Abelardo P. Basilio.

The ₱12-billion Kaliwa Dam project is supposed to be the biggest solution of the Philippine government to end the recurring water supply issue in Metro Manila, which has long been dependent to the 52-year-old Angat Dam.

The project involves the construction of a massive dam in Quezon and Rizal province that will have a capacity to treat as much as 600 million liters of water per day (mld).

Construction will be done by China Energy Engineering Corporation (CEEC) and will be funded by the Chinese government through an Official Development Assistance (ODA) deal with the Philippines.

It's been more than two years since the Duterte Administration first attempted to get the project started. And finally, a few weeks ago, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued the much-awaited environment clearance to the project.

The only thing that's stop-

ping CEEC now to proceed with the Kaliwa Dam's construction is the lack of approval from the communities of Indigenous People (IP) in Rizal and Quezon that will be affected by the project and will likely be displaced.

So National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP), for its part, has not given its green light for the Kaliwa Dam, but it hasn't issued any statement condemning the project either.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator Emmanuel Salamat said the government's dialogue with IP communities in the areas is ongoing, but he declined to comment when asked if he thinks the NCIP will come up with a decision within this year.

"Our agreement with MWSS is if we feel that Kaliwa Dam is being delayed, we will not sit down [and just wait]. We will proactively promote another water source," Fernandez said.

The new water source, he said, may involve tapping another 300 mld from Laguna de Bay, the largest fresh water lake in the Philippines and the third largest in Southeast Asia.

"In 2021, if we see nothing is happening, we have to make our move [and start building another plant]," he further said.

Maynilad now has two water treatment plants that draw water from Laguna Lake.

The construction of the third plant is slated to start in January, while the construction of the fourth plant would be the company's major contingency measure if the Kaliwa Dam won't happen in the next two years. (Madelaine B. Miraflor)



P10.5-B PROJECT TO IMPROVE SANITATION CONDITIONS IN CAMANA

MAYNILAD STARTS WORK ON BIGGEST SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

By Ronnel W. Domingo
@RonWDomingoINQ

Maynilad Water Services Inc. yesterday broke ground for its biggest sewage treatment plant so far, which as part of its commitments as a concessionaire of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Dubbed Camana (Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas) Water Reclamation Facility, the P10.5-billion project is expected to help clean up waterways flowing to Manila Bay and also improve sanitation conditions in three cities.

Expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2021, the Camana plant is designed to treat about 205 million liters

of wastewater daily, generated by about 1.2 million Maynilad customers in South Caloocan, Malabon and Navotas.

The plant would be built on a 16-hectare lot along Dagatdagatan Avenue Extension in Barangay Maypajo, Caloocan City. Maynilad would lay about 85 kilometers of accompanying sewer lines to bring wastewater from households and establishments to the facility.

"The completion of our Camana treatment facility will increase Maynilad's sewerage coverage to 47 percent, up from only 6 percent in 2006 before [the West Zone service] was reprivatized," company president and chief executive

Ramoncito S. Fernandez said during the groundbreaking.

"As in previous implementations of our wastewater projects, we ask for the support of the local government units and communities so that we can facilitate completion and mitigate the impact on traffic of our activities," Fernandez said.

According to Fernandez, the new project is part of Maynilad's P200-billion wastewater investment plan covering 2019 to 2037.

The company is facing penalties of close to P1 billion for violations of the Clean Water Act. Maynilad has asked the Supreme Court to reconsider the order. INQ



Demolisyon sa Boracay, nakaamba

BORACAY ISLAND - Itutuloy ng Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group ang demolisyon sa sampung istruktura sa Bulabog beach ng sa Boracay Island.

Ito ay nang mabigo ang mga petitioner na makakuha ng kautusan ng Kalibo Regional Trial Court upang ideklara sana na ilegal ang nasabing demolisyon.

Ayon kay Atty. Salvador Paolo Panelo, abogado ng mga apektadong residente, hinihintay pa ng hukuman ang affidavit ng Office of the Solicitor General para makapagdesisyon ang

korte.

Kinuwestiyon kamakailan ng mga residente sa pangunguna ni Panelo ang isinasagawang demolition ng pamahalaan dahil wala umano itong court order.

Tiniyak ni Panelo, isusulong pa rin ni Panelo ang kaso sa korte at umaasang mabibigyan ng hustisya ang mga apektadong residente. Sinimulan ng pamahalaan ang demolisyon noong Oktubre 7 ngunit pansamantala itong nahinto dahil dinala sa hukuman ang usapin.

Jun N. Aguirre



Maynilad mulls Putatan 4 amid Kaliwa delay

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Services Inc. is now studying the possibility of a fourth Putatan plant if government will continue to face delay in building the flagship Kaliwa Dam.

Maynilad president and chief executive officer Ramoncito Fernandez said the water firm might consider a Putatan 4, which would also tap the waters from Laguna Lake.

"We had an agreement with MWSS (Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System) that if we feel that Kaliwa is being delayed, we will proactively promote another

water plant," Fernandez told reporters on the sidelines of the CAMANA facility groundbreaking on Monday.

"By 2021, if we see nothing is happening, we have to make our move because as you've seen, it's been more than 15 years since plans for the Kaliwa Dam," he said.

The new Putatan plant will likely cost between P8 billion and P10 billion per 150 million liters per day.

"But we would rather get approval for 300 MLD immediately because the problem if you do it gradually, like 150 and another 150, it will be more expensive and there is no economies of scale," Fern-

andez said.

For the third Putatan plant, Maynilad will begin construction by January and will take two years to complete. The facility will have a capacity of 150 MLD.

Maynilad's Putatan treatment plant in Muntinlupa is the first water treatment facility that taps into Laguna Lake as an alternative to Angat Dam and is the largest membrane-based water treatment plant in the Philippines and is also the first of its kind in the country to use large-scale microfiltration and reverse osmosis.

Maynilad has welcomed the call of MWSS to prioritize the domestic use of water in

the Laguna Lake.

Maynilad is pouring in P100 billion over the next five years to accelerate the improvement and expansion of its water infrastructure projects to enhance supply and pressure.

The West Zone concessionaire has broken ground on the P10.5-billion Camana (Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas) water reclamation facility.

The new plant which will take two years to construct, will help clean up waterways flowing to Manila Bay and improve sanitation conditions in three cities.

"This project is really for the environment. This will

Turn to B10

Maynilad... From B9

catch all of the wastewater of domestic customers inside the three cities and then pump them to these stations and clean the wastewater before throwing it back to the river systems," said Maynilad president Ramoncito Fernandez.

The STP will treat wastewater generated by some 1.2 million Maynilad customers in South Caloocan, Malabon, and Navotas.

Once completed, it will

become Maynilad's largest STP in terms of capacity, capable of treating about 205 million liters of wastewater per day. The facility will increase Maynilad's sewerage coverage to 47 percent, up from only six percent in 2007 before the firm was reprivatized.

The company is currently constructing other sewerage treatment plants in Valenzuela, Las Piñas City, and Tuna-

san and Cupang in Muntinlupa.

This year alone, Maynilad is spending P17 billion, higher than the P10 billion it invested in 2018.

Maynilad is the largest private water concessionaire in the country in terms of customer base. It serves the areas of Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Malabon, and certain portions of Manila, Quezon City, Makati and Cavite.



Maynilad breaks ground for largest sewerage plant

By MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR

West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) has started the construction of its largest Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP), which will have the capacity to treat 205 million liters of wastewater per day (mld).

On Monday, officials of Maynilad, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, and some local government units (LGUs) have led the ground breaking ceremony for the ₱10.5-billion project called CAMANA (Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas) Water Reclamation Facility.

This facility is expected to be online in two years, said Maynilad President and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez.

According to him, the completion of this project will increase his Maynilad's sewerage coverage to 47 percent, up from only 6 percent in 2006.

As part of this, which is seen to benefit Maynilad customers in South Caloocan, Malabon, and Navotas, the company will lay about 85 kilometers of accompanying sewer lines to catch wastewater from households and establishments and convey it to the facility.

The CAMANA facility is a major portion of Maynilad's ₱200-billion wastewater investment plan from 2019 to 2037 that will involve the construction of 26 new STPs and installation of about 425 kilometers of new sewer lines, among other projects.

The company is also cur-

rently constructing other STPs in Valenzuela, Las Piñas City, and Tunasan and Cupang in Muntinlupa.

In a statement, Maynilad said that the CAMANA will use advanced Modified Ludzack Ettinger (MLE)-Conventional Activated Sludge technology to remove pollutants from wastewater before its discharge to the Maypajo Creek, which eventually flows out to Manila Bay.

It is designed to comply with the Water Quality Guidelines and General Effluent Standards of 2016 (DAO 2016-08)—a more stringent standard mandated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Currently, Maynilad operates and maintains 22 wastewater facilities that have a combined treatment capacity of about 663,000 cubic meters of wastewater per day.

It is the largest private water concessionaire in the Philippines in terms of customer base. It is the concessionaire of the MWSS for the West Zone of the Greater Manila Area, which is composed of the cities of Manila (all but portions of San Andres & Sta. Ana), Quezon City (west of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional, Mindanao Avenue, the northern part starting from the Districts of the Holy Spirit & Batasan Hills), Makati (west of South Super Highway), Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon all in Metro Manila; the cities of Cavite, Bacoor and Imus, and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, all in Cavite Province.



Maynilad breaks ground on P10-B sewage treatment plant

MAYNILAD Water Services, Inc. on Monday has broken ground on a P10.5-billion sewage treatment plant that is set to become the company's largest in terms of capacity as it will be able to treat about 205 million liters of wastewater per day.

The plant, called the CAMANA (Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas) Water Reclamation Facility, is expected to help clean the waterways flowing to Manila Bay while improving the sanitation conditions in three cities.

"The completion of our CAMANA treatment facility will increase Maynilad's sewerage coverage to 47%, up from only 6% in 2006 before Maynilad was reprivatized," said Maynilad President and Chief Executive Officer Ramoncito S. Fernandez in a statement.

The facility will treat wastewater generated by some 1.2 million Maynilad customers in south Caloocan, Malabon, and Navotas. It will be built on a 16-hectare lot along Dagat-dagatan Ave. Ext. in Brgy. Maypajo, Caloocan City.

"As in previous implementations of our wastewater projects, we ask for the support of the local government units and communities so that we can facilitate completion and mitigate the impact on traffic of our activities," Mr. Fernandez said.

To catch wastewater from households and establishments in the covered cities, Maynilad will also lay about 85 kilometers of accompanying sewer lines leading to the treatment facility.

Maynilad said the CAMANA facility will use advanced Modified Ludzack Ettinger (MLE)-Conventional Activated Sludge technology to remove pollutants from wastewater before its discharge to the Maypajo creek, then to Manila Bay.

The sewage treatment plant is designed to comply with the stringent standards mandated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources under the water quality guidelines and general effluent standards of 2016.

The company said the facility is part of its P200-billion wastewater investment plan from 2019 to 2037 that will involve the construction of 26 new STPs and the installation of about 425 kilometers of new sewer lines.

Along with the facility, Maynilad is also building other sewage treatment plants in Valenzuela, Las Piñas City, and Tunasan and Cupang in Muntinlupa.

Maynilad, the largest private water concessionaire in the Philippines in terms of customer base, operates and maintains 22 wastewater facilities with a combined treatment capacity of about 663,000 cubic meters of wastewater per day.

Maynilad and Manila Water Company earlier filed a motion for consideration on the Supreme Court decision to impose a P921-million fine on the two companies for failing to connect all existing sewage lines to the available sewerage system within five years from the effectivity of the Clean Water Act, or from May 6, 2004.

Maynilad serves the cities of Manila, except portions of San Andres and Sta. Ana. It also covers Quezon City west of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional, Mindanao Avenue, the northern part starting from the districts of the Holy Spirit and Batasan Hills.

Down south, it serves Makati west of South Super Highway, Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon all in Metro Manila; and the cities of Cavite, Bacoor and Imus, and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, all in Cavite province.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) has a 52.8% stake in Maynilad. MPIC is one of three key Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT). Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has a majority stake in *BusinessWorld*. — **Victor V. Saulon**



Manila Water earnings drop on supply constraints

By **LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON**

The recent supply shortage in the East Zone continued to take a toll on Ayala-led Manila Water Co. Inc. as its net income declined by 11 percent to P4.4 billion amid higher costs and expenses coupled with government penalties.

In a regulatory filing, the water firm attributed the lower bottomline to the impact of the water supply shortage despite revenues improving 10 percent to P16.1 billion.

Revenues grew due to the higher contribution of the domestic businesses outside the east zone.

The firm's operating expenses also surged 18 percent to P7 billion, a major factor of which was the provision of

financial penalty imposed by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the additional service recovery and operations augmentation costs in relation to the water supply shortage.

In April, the MWSS board decided to fine the east zone concessionaire P534.05 million and an additional P600 million which will be used for the development of a new water supply source.

Manila Water violated the provision of the concession agreement which requires 24/7 water supply to its consumers.

Total billed volume still increased by eight percent to 875.89 million cubic meters amid lower water supply and service availability.

Billed volume in Manila declined by two percent and average consumption by four percent, a direct result of the lack of available raw water supply for distribution. This decline, coupled with the one-time bill waiver program, had affected topline.

Outside the Manila concession, Manila Water Philippine Ventures climbed 126 percent to P301 million led by key subsidiaries Laguna Water, Estate Water, and Boracay Water.

Laguna Water grew its earnings by 85 percent to P290 million due to improved average tariff.

For Estate Water, positive performance was bolstered by higher supervision fees for new projects, as well as an increase in billed volume

through the takeover of new residential and mixed-use estates.

For Boracay Water, net income grew 137 percent to P73 million due to the higher number of tourist arrivals with the reopening of the island.

Manila Water Asia Pacific, which houses Manila Water's international investments in the region, saw an eight percent increase in earnings to P552 million, mainly driven by the equity share of East Water in Thailand.

This despite challenges encountered by subsidiary operations in Vietnam, which posted lower income contribution due to higher regulatory and operating costs, even as billed volume remained relatively stable.

Water concessionaires deal with wastewater, supply woes

WEST zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. yesterday broke ground for its P10.5-billion Camana sewage treatment plant (STP) that will help clean up waterways flowing to Manila Bay.

This developed as east zone concessionaire Manila Water Co. Inc. booked an 11 percent drop in net income for the first nine months of the year to P4.4 billion from P4.9 billion last year due to the impact of the water supply shortage in its Metro Manila concession early this year.

Maynilad in a statement said the Camana STP will treat wastewater generated by 1.2 million customers in Caloocan, Malabon and Navotas at a capacity of 205 million liters per day.

It will be completed by the fourth quarter of 2021.

Maynilad will also lay about 85 kilometers of accompanying sewer lines to catch wastewater from households and establishments in the three cities covered and convey it to the treatment facility that is being built.

Meanwhile, Manila Water reported consolidated revenues of P16.1 billion, up 10 percent from P14.7 billion on higher contribution of domestic businesses outside its concession.

Metro Manila's water supply shortage led to a 2 percent drop in billed volume and 4-percent decline average consumption.

This was, however, offset by the strong contribution of businesses outside Manila with a total

.....
See WATER > Page A2

WATER

net income of P301 million, a 126 percent jump from the previous year, led by key subsidiaries Estate Water, Boracay Water and Laguna Water.

International operations im-

proved by 8 percent in equity share in net income of associates to P552 million for the period, largely due to the contribution of East Water in Thailand.



SMC set to shift to biodegradable plastic packages

By IRIS GONZALES

San Miguel Corp., the country's diversified conglomerate, will shift to a new fully-certified biodegradable plastic packaging, responding to growing calls around the world for businesses and conglomerates to do their share in preserving the environment.

The company tapped a local firm that has been developing and testing the technology for the last five years to provide the new packaging to SMC which the company, would initially use for food and non-food products, such as cement and feed sacks, grocery bags and food packaging.

SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon Ang said the company is partnering with Philippine Bioresins Corp., a small but innovative company that has successfully developed and tested biodegradable plastics.

"Initially, we will use it for cement packaging. What we will use is a biodegradable plastic woven packaging or sack. This is proudly developed by Filipino inventors, using local materials, and made by local workers," Ang said.

Philippine Bioresins Corp. received an Environmental Technology Verification certificate from the Department

Turn to B11

SMC... From B9

of Science and Technology (DOST) Industrial Technology Development Institute.

The DOST verification confirmed that the biodegradable polypropylene produced by the company will be 64.65 percent degraded in 24 months as compared to non-biodegradable plastics (4.5 percent in 24 months).

The move will be the newest addition to SMC's sustainability measures. Other similar measures employed by SMC include the zero-waste returnable glass bottle system, and manufacturing processes following circular economy principles – where by-products are re-used to create other products.

In addition to using biodegradable cement bags, the company's cement business also currently buys plastic water bottles and bags, for use as fuels for its cement plants. It also uses discarded rubber tires and industrial sewage waste as secondary fuel for its cement plants.

"This is another way that we are helping

turn plastic wastes that would have otherwise ended up in landfills or bodies of water, into useful and much-needed products – in this case, cement, which is used to construct buildings and infrastructure."

Ang said the company is seriously implementing sustainability measures.

SMC has already stopped the use of plastic in the bottled water business and has taken on the challenge to reduce group-wide non-product water use by 50 percent by 2025. It has also poured more resources into major projects to clean up bodies of water as well as into research that supports plastic waste reduction.

"We have always been looking for innovative environmental technologies, and we are excited about this development. We are looking forward to using biodegradable plastics, and this is just the beginning, as they are developing other technologies in this field," Ang said.

Ang urged other companies to also look for ways to lessen their negative impact on the environment.



San Miguel to use biodegradable plastic in most of its packaging

By VG CABUAG
@villygc

CONGLOMERATE San Miguel Corp. on Monday said it is set to become the first Filipino company to utilize fully certified biodegradable plastic packaging.

The company said it is tapping a local firm that has been developing and testing the technology for the last five years, which it is initially set to use for food and nonfood products, such as cement and feed sacks, grocery bags and food packaging.

The move will be the newest addition to San Miguel's sustainable business models, which include the zero-waste returnable glass bottle system, and manufacturing processes following

circular economy principles—where by-products are reused to create other products.

Company President and Chief Operating Officer Ramon S. Ang said that it is partnering with Philippine Bioresins Corp., a small firm that has successfully developed and tested biodegradable plastics.

"Initially, we will use it for cement packaging. What we will use is a biodegradable plastic woven packaging or sack. This

is proudly developed by Filipino inventors, using local materials and made by local workers," Ang said.

Philippine Bioresins was recently given an Environmental Technology Verification certificate by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Industrial Technology Development Institute.

The DOST verification confirmed that the biodegradable polypropylene produced by the company will be 64.65 percent degraded in 24 months as compared to nonbiodegradable plastics of 4.5 percent in 24 months.

"We have always been looking for innovative environmental technologies, and we are excited about this development. We are looking forward to using biodegradable plastics, and this is just the beginning, as they are developing other technologies in this field," Ang said.

The country is reportedly the world's third-largest plastic polluter to global waters.

In addition to using biodegradable cement bags, the company's cement business also currently buys plastic water bottles and bags, for use as fuels for its cement plants. It also uses discarded rubber tires and industrial sewage waste as secondary fuel for its cement plants.

"We are very serious when it comes to sustainability. We have stopped our plastic bottled water business we have taken on the challenge to reduce group-wide nonproduct water use by 50 percent by 2025, and we've poured more resources into major projects to clean up bodies of water, as well as into research that supports plastic waste reduction," the company said.

Last March, San Miguel started collaborating with leading materials science company Dow Chemical to study using hard-to-recycle plastics as an alternative raw material for road surfacing, in order to reduce the volume of scrap plastics that end up in the landfills.



Eco warriors Personnel from the Pateros Police Community Precinct 1 under PLT. Christopher Dy conduct simultaneous cleanup drives in Barangays Sta. Ana and San Roque. This is in line with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' "Kaligtasan at Kalikasan" program to prevent the spread of dengue-causing mosquitoes, promote public safety and rehabilitate natural resources.

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STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

A1
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

BANNER
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

11-12-19

TITLE:

PAGE 17

DATE



Irked by trash, Isko rids Ilaya St. of vendors

Riled by the sight of mounds of trash, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno on Monday vowed to ban vendors from setting up merchandise stalls in Divisoria, the popular outdoor shopping area in Manila. Piles of trash on Ilaya Street greeted the mayor when he stopped by for a surprise inspection around 5:30 a.m. Moreno has earned praises for cleaning up the city.

—STORY BY NIKKA VALENZUELA

A14

Isko fumes over trash, bans vendors on Ilaya St.

If they will leave garbage every day, then let's prohibit all of them, says mayor

By Nikka G. Valenzuela
@NikkaINQ

Street vendors have been banished indefinitely from Ilaya Street in Divisoria, Manila, after Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso found piles of trash scattered everywhere during a surprise inspection around 5:30 a.m. on Monday.

"[They have] no initiative [to keep the place clean]. If they will leave [garbage] every day, then let's prohibit all of them," an obviously irked Domagoso said during the inspection aired on Facebook live.

Addressing some vendors who were in the area, he told them: "Are you not ashamed or are you also this messy inside your own houses? Do I really need to surprise you? I'm already giving you a chance to work."

In an earlier interview, the mayor told the Inquirer that



EYESORE The cause of the mayor's dismay: Huge piles of trash scattered everywhere on the street. —MANILA PIO

ambulant vendors were allowed only on selected streets in Divisoria: Carmen Planas, Tabora and the portion of Ilaya near Moriones and Binondo.

Under no circumstances should they occupy major roads or Mabuhay Lanes like

Juan Luna Street and Recto Avenue, he stressed.

The vendors should also abide by conditions set by the city government, Domagoso said. These included limiting the size of their stalls to 1 meter by 1 m and making sure that

they do not block the passage of pedestrians or vehicles.

"If people [and vehicles] cannot pass because [vendors] are occupying the whole street, I will make their Christmas sad. We gave them the opportunity to sell on the condition that they observe discipline," he added.

During Monday's flag ceremony, he told City Hall employees that there had been reported attempts to extort money from street vendors for the holiday season.

"To those organizers watching, return the money that you had asked for in advance from the vendors. You're the ones spreading the news that, 'It's Christmas! We're going back to Recto,'" Domagoso said.

"You're abusive. You are liars. You can fool the common man. If I see you, it will be different, believe me," he warned. INQ



'Isko' bars vendors in Ilaya Street

MANILA Mayor Francisco "Isko" Domagoso has banned vendors from peddling their wares in Ilaya Street in Divisoria.

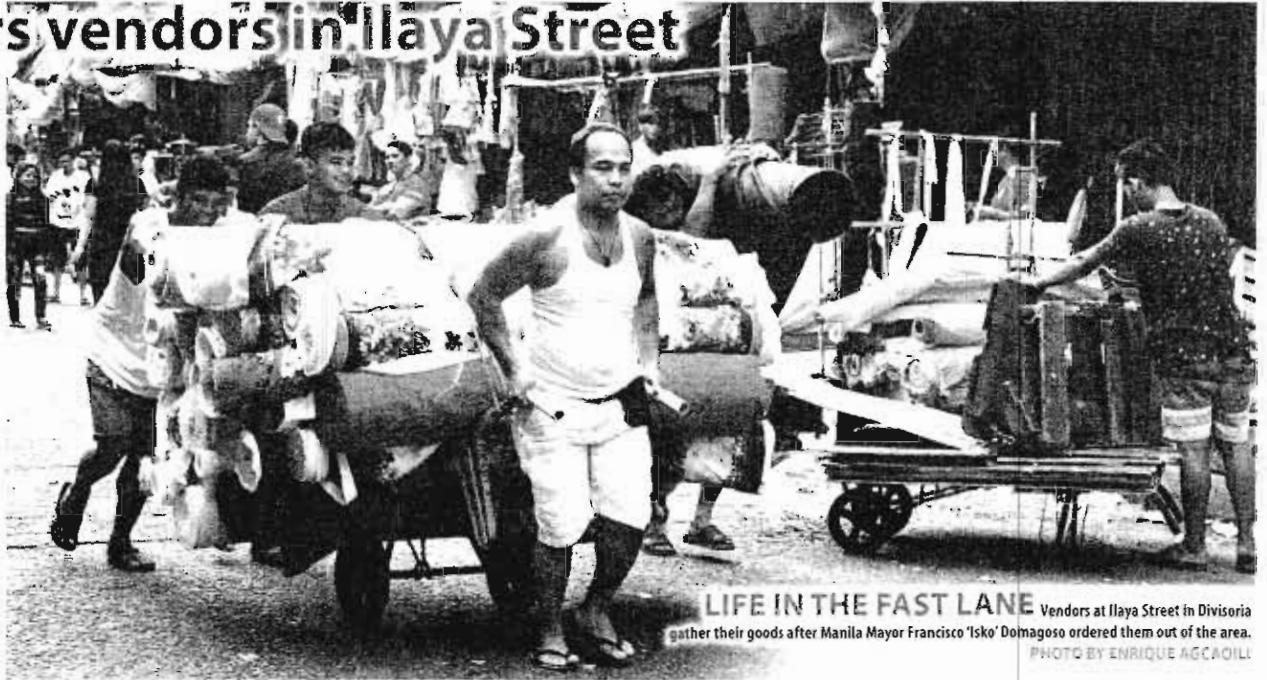
The mayor was enraged when he saw heaps of trash in the area during a surprise inspection.

"Hindi ba kayo nahihya dyan o talagang baboy din kayo sa bahay (Are you not ashamed or is that how you treat your own household)?" Domagoso told vendors.

"Kallangan ko pa kayo serpresahin? Pinaghanapbuhay ko na nga kayo eh (Do I always have to come unannounced? I gave you a chance to earn a living)," he added.

The mayor earlier cleaned Recto Avenue, Soler Street and Juan Luna Street of vendors.

JOSHUA VERA CRUZ



LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

Vendors at Ilaya Street in Divisoria gather their goods after Manila Mayor Francisco 'Isko' Domagoso ordered them out of the area.

PHOTO BY ENRIQUE AGCAOILI



Isko punishes vendors over Divisoria garbage

By JOSEPH PEDRAJAS

Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso has banned vendors from selling their wares on Ilaya Street at Divisoria, Binondo, after seeing the piles of garbage during a surprise pre-dawn inspection in the area on Monday.

Scrap vegetables and plastic wastes of vendors littered Ilaya Street, particularly the corner Recto Avenue, as Moreno inspected the place around 5:30 a.m.

As a penalty, Moreno said, vendors would no longer be allowed to set up stalls and sell in the area.

"Tatangalin natin sila. Mama-ya, 'di na sila pwedeng magtin-da," he said. "Kung ganyan lang din naman ang iiwan sa'tin araw-araw, tigil na silang lahat."

"Kasi, dadaan 'yung mga 'papasok sa trabaho, papasok sa eskwela tapos makikita nila puro basura. Hindi naman po tama 'yun," Moreno added.

Moreno stressed that the city government strictly implements the recently passed Ordinance No. 8572 or "Tapat ko, Linis ko," which prohibits "leaving trash and other refuse in the gutter, sidewalks, streets, alleyway and roads."

On the other hand, Moreno maintained that his policy on street and sidewalk vendors since he assumed offices remains the same.

This, amid reports that street vendors could return to Divisoria once they comply with Moreno's conditions.

"Chismis lang 'yun," he said.

Moreno clarified that street and sidewalk vendors are still not allowed on Juan Luna St. in Binondo, Juan Luna St. in Tondo, on Soler St.

and along the stretch of Recto Ave., particularly from Asuncion to Abad Santos streets.

"It's non-negotiable [for them to be allowed]," Moreno said.

Meanwhile, vendors can keep selling on the streets of Ilaya, Carmen Planas, Zamora and Sto. Cristo, and on other perpendicular roads.

However, the mayor told vendors to keep their areas clean or face penalty.

"Pag 'di sila naglinis, 'di na sila makakapagtinda. The same thing that happened to them [vendors of Ilaya]," he added.

Moreno also reminded vendors never to bribe anyone, including barangay officials who were allegedly collecting money for them to be allowed to sell.

The mayor said the local government has its own men who are in charge of collecting payments that go to the coffers of the city government.




11-12-19

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE



ISKOR

NI: ISKO MORENO

TAMBAK NA BASURA SA DIVISORIA, BALIK NA NAMAN, MGA VENDORS, DUGYOT TALAGA!

NAKAKADISMAYA na matapos bigyan ng pagkakataong mamuhay ang ilang vendors sa Divisoria, tambak-tambak na basura ang isinukli nito sa taumbayan.

Minsan, gusto tuloy natin silang tanungin, hindi ba kayo nahihiya o talagang dugyot kayo sa bahay? Kailangan pa ba kayong sorpresahin? Pinaghanapbuhay na kayo, eh, wala — wala pa rin kayong kusa.

Binabalaan natin ang mga ilegal na 'organizer' na kung puwede lang ay isauli n'yo na ang perang in-advance n'yo sa mga vendors. Kayo ang nagpapaputok. Binalahan n'yo ang mga vendors: Pasko na, babalik na tayo!

Mga abusado at mapanlinlang kayo. Matiyempuhan lang namin kayo, makita n'yo talaga! Bumalik na kayo sa dati ninyong bayan!

□□□

INAANYAYAHAN natin ang lahat na dumalo sa pag-iilaw ng Christmas tree at parol na gaganapin sa bandang Kartilya, Bantayog ni Bonifacio bukas, Miyerkules, ika-13 ng Nobyembre, 2019.

Sasabayan din nito ang pag-iilaw ng mga puno at parol sa Luneta Park, Intramuros, Escolta, Tutuban Mall, Paco Park, Philippine Post Office, National Museum at Rizal Park Hotel.

Ang ating programa ay pasasayahin ng mga inihandang musika mula sa Adamson University Chorale at Adamson University String Orchestra.



EDGE



UPPER
POWER



PAGE 1
STORY



BANNER
STORY



EDITORIAL



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11-12-19

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

'Pinas delikado sa banta ng 'climate change' - UN

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

Ayon kay Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, House Ways and Means Committee chairman at pangunahing may-akda ng 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 uto ng Senado bago dumating ang Pasko.

Sa panukalang DDR, isasailalim 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 pagbibigay 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.



11-12-99

TITLE:

PAGE 1/

DATE

Open-pit mines can't trigger earthquakes

MANILA— Open-pit mining cannot induce fault movements or earthquakes, a Mines and Geoscience Bureau (MGB) official said in a press conference on Friday.

MGB Mining Technology Division chief, Engineer Teodorico Sandoval, made this comment in the wake of the concerns on social media blaming mining activities such as open-pit operations on the occurrence of earthquakes.

"The source or the generator of the earthquakes are the so-called faultlines located in parts of the Philippines," he said.

The safety of mining operations was put into a discussion after the series of powerful earthquakes and aftershocks jolted areas in mainland Mindanao last month.

He added that blasting an open-pit mine would not affect the fault movement underneath to trigger an earthquake or any geologic activity.

"It would not be possible that an open-pit operation would be the source of the earthquake, a fault movement requires a large

amount of energy, so the open-pit mining is not possible to generate or provoke tremor," he said.

"The mechanism of the earthquakes involves the release of pressures from the faultlines, which is the tectonic movement that is happening in our country," he added.

PNA



TITLE:

PAGE 17

DATE

HINIHIMAY na ng Senado ang panukalang pambansang badyet para sa taong 2020 na nagmula sa Kamara.

Habang hinihimay ito, may ilang senador na ang nagsasabing kung makakapa nilang may mga bukol sa panukala at ipipilit ng mga kongresman na manatili ang mga bukol na iyon, malamang umanong matutulad ang panukala sa badyet ng 2019 na nabibinbin at naaprubahan at napairal na lamang sa huling bahagi ng Abril 2019.

Speaking of bukol, may nais umanong mambukol o mandaya ng halagang P20 bilyon.

PARKING O PORK?

Parking ang tawag nila sa P20B.

Naka-park o inilagay umano ito sa ilalim ng Department of Public Works and Highways at Department of Interior and Local Government.

Basta may malalaking halaga umano na kung susumahin ay P20 bilyon na pinaglalagay bilang mga pondo ng mga proyekto sa nasabing mga departamento.

Tulad ng sasakyan, naka-park lang ang mga pondong ito na may paggagamitan naman pero walang detalye.

Halimbawa kung kalsada, walang sukat na pahaba o ilang kilometro, walang kapal na pulgada, walang tiyak na paglalagyan bagama't may tinukoy na kahabaan ng kalsada at marami pang ibang kaifangan na dapat malinaw.

Katwiran ng mga kongresman, maraming libro ang panukalang badyet at kailangang suriin umano nang husto ng mga senador ang mga libro at makikita nila na walang parking, at lalong walang pork barrel.

IBANG PANANAW

Ayon naman sa mga senador na duda sa P20B pondo, may nagbulong sa kanila mismo na mga kongresman na may umaalingasaw sa nasabing halaga.

Nang pagtatanungin ang mga taong "concerned" o benepisyaryo ng mga proyekto, sabi umano ng mga ito, wala silang alam.

Karaniwang may alam at umaasa ang mga benepisyaryo na mapagbibigyan ang kanilang mga kahilingan



2020 BUDGET HUWAG BABUYIN, I-HOSTAGE

na magkaparte sa pondong bayan para sa kanilang kabutihan.

Pero bakit nga sila walang alam na may pondo pala para sa kanila?

P95B SA 2019

BUDGET

Para sa taong ito, may kinuwestiyon ang mga senador na P95B na sa amoy nila ay pork barrel ng mga kongresman at meron din para sa ilang senador.

Nakumbinse nila si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na pork barrel ang P95B, lalo na ang P75B na kasama rito, kaya sa huli, na-veto nito ang buong P95B.

Paano kung meron ngang bukol na P20B ang 2020 budget?

At peperahin lang ng mga kongresman?

Ngayon pa lang naman, eh, sinasabi na ng Palasyo na ituro ng mga senador ang bukol at pag-aaralan ito mismo ng Malakanyang.

Hindi kaya pupwedeng gawin ito ng mga senador, aprubahan nila sa tamang panahon ang panukalang badyet at kala-kip na ang kanilang "reserbasyon" sa P20B, gaya ng ginawa nila sa P95B?

HUWAG ANTALAIN

Para sa atin, dapat na huwag antalain ang pagpapasa ng panukalang badyet at paabutin sa kalahati ng taon gaya ng nangyari sa 2019 budget.

Dapat sanang mapirmahan ng ni Pang. Digong ang badyet bago pa man darating ang Enero 1, 2020 para agad na mailapat ang pondong bayan sa lahat ng programa ng pamahalaan para sa pag-unlad at pagbabago ng buong bansa.

Magkakaroon ng maayos na paggasta sa salaping kung napapanahon ang paggamit nito at hindi atrasado.

Kung atrasado, napakarami ang masasamang epekto gaya ng paglobo ng mga utang ng pamahalaan dahil sa interes at multa, pagkabinbin ng sahod ng mga nasa gob-

yerno na sasamantalan ng mga usurerong sa pagpapautang at ikasasama ng kalagayan ng mga empleyado.

Mabibinbin din ang mga proyektong bayan sa imprastruktura gaya ng pagpapagawa ng mga eskwela, tulay, kalsada, paliparan, pangkuryente, pangkomunikasyon at iba pa.

Ang pagtataas ng sahod ng mga empleyado gaya ng mga titser at nars ay maaaring mabibinbin din, maging ang benepisyong mga mahihirap sa ilalim ng 4Ps at mga estudyante.

Matatamaan din ng kawalan o kakulangan ng pondo ang mga ospital ng pamahalaan, ang mga kagamitan ng Department of Social Welfare and Development na laging nahaharap sa kalamidad at ang pagkilos ng militar at pulisya laban sa terorismo at krimen.

MGA KORAP, TUMIGIL NA

Dapat nang tumigil sa korapsyon ang mga mambabatas, kung too ang bintang ng mga senador.

Ang nasisira ay ang bayan.

Maganda sana, kung totoo ang namumuro ang korapsyon at pandarambong sa P20B pondong bayan, na ilabas ang ngalan ng mga mambabatas na may gawa ng korapsyon at huwag magsiper ng buong nganga ang mga nakakikilala sa mga ito.

Tama na ang korapsyon at pandarambong at sa halip, ang kakanan ng taumbayan ang pangunahing isipin ng mga nasa pamahalaan.

Sana tatandaan ng lahat ng nasa pamahalaan na hindi sila nakapwesto roon upang magpayaman kundi magiging obrero at tagapagsilbi ng taumbayan.

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



MM 'di kaya ng Angat, La Mesa dam

Dahil sa sobra-sobra na ang populasyon kaya hindi na sapat ang isinusuplay na tubig ng Angat at La Mesa dam sa mga taga-Metro Manila.

Ito ang paniniwala si Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Martin Andanar matapos pagbesahan na nasa mahigit 13 milyon na ang populasyon sa kalakhang Maynila noong Mayo 12, 2019.

Ayon kay Andanar, pataas ng pataas ang demand ng tubig habang hindi naman nadadagdagan ang water source o maaaring mapagkunan ng magagamit na tubig ng mga taga National Capital Region (NCR).

Taong 1967 nang naging operational

ang Angat Dam na ayon kay Andanar ay kayang-kayang punan noon ang pangangailangan ng mga taga Metro Manila sa tubig gayung napakaliit lang ng populasyon dito sa NCR.

Sinabi ni Andanar na nakadagdag din sa water challenge ngayon ng mga taga Maynila ang problema sa climate change habang nariryan din aniya ang napakabigat na deal na naipasok ng mga water providers.

Sa harap nito'y tiniyak ng Kalihim na ginagawan ng paraan ng pamahalaan ang problema sa tubig at sa katunayan, kabilang ito sa naging agenda ng pinakahuling Cabinet meeting.

Beth Camia